





# LSE faces revolt over plan to raise fees

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

ONE of Tony Blair's leading academic advisers faced a student revolt last night after proposing a 30 per cent rise in tuition fees at the London School of Economics.

Anthony Giddens, who is director of the LSE, said the rise from £5,500 to £7,150 for British postgraduates would bring the fees more in line with those paid by overseas students.

But, in a demonstration reminiscent of the LSE's years as a hotbed of radicalism in the 1960s, students and lecturers said the rise would deter British postgraduates, and would be interpreted as a test-bed for increasing university income by squeezing more money from students.

Professor Giddens is a political sociologist known to be in regular contact with the Prime Minister. In September, he accompanied Mr Blair to America for a seminar with President Clinton on how the United States had interpreted the "third way" and how more flesh could be put on the new political philosophy.

The plans are part of a package to be examined over the coming weeks by the governing body of the LSE. Overseas students who already pay more than £9,000 per year for the course will only have their fees raised in line with the 3.5 per cent basic rate of inflation.

Last night the 30 students at the demonstration accused their governing body of trading education for financial reward. Narius Aga, the general secretary of the student union, said: "This would create a very dangerous intake based on financial and not academic means. We are astounded that LSE are considering it, and if they are wanting to compete with Oxbridge, this is not the way forward."

A spokeswoman for the Association of University Teachers said that the proposals were the first in what could become

a worrying trend in education. "This is the first. It won't be the last. Universities will make postgraduates pay however they can if they are desperate for money. It will put education solely into the hands of those who can pay," she said.

However, Professor Giddens insisted that the LSE had made no firm decisions and was still looking "at all options" for addressing funding.

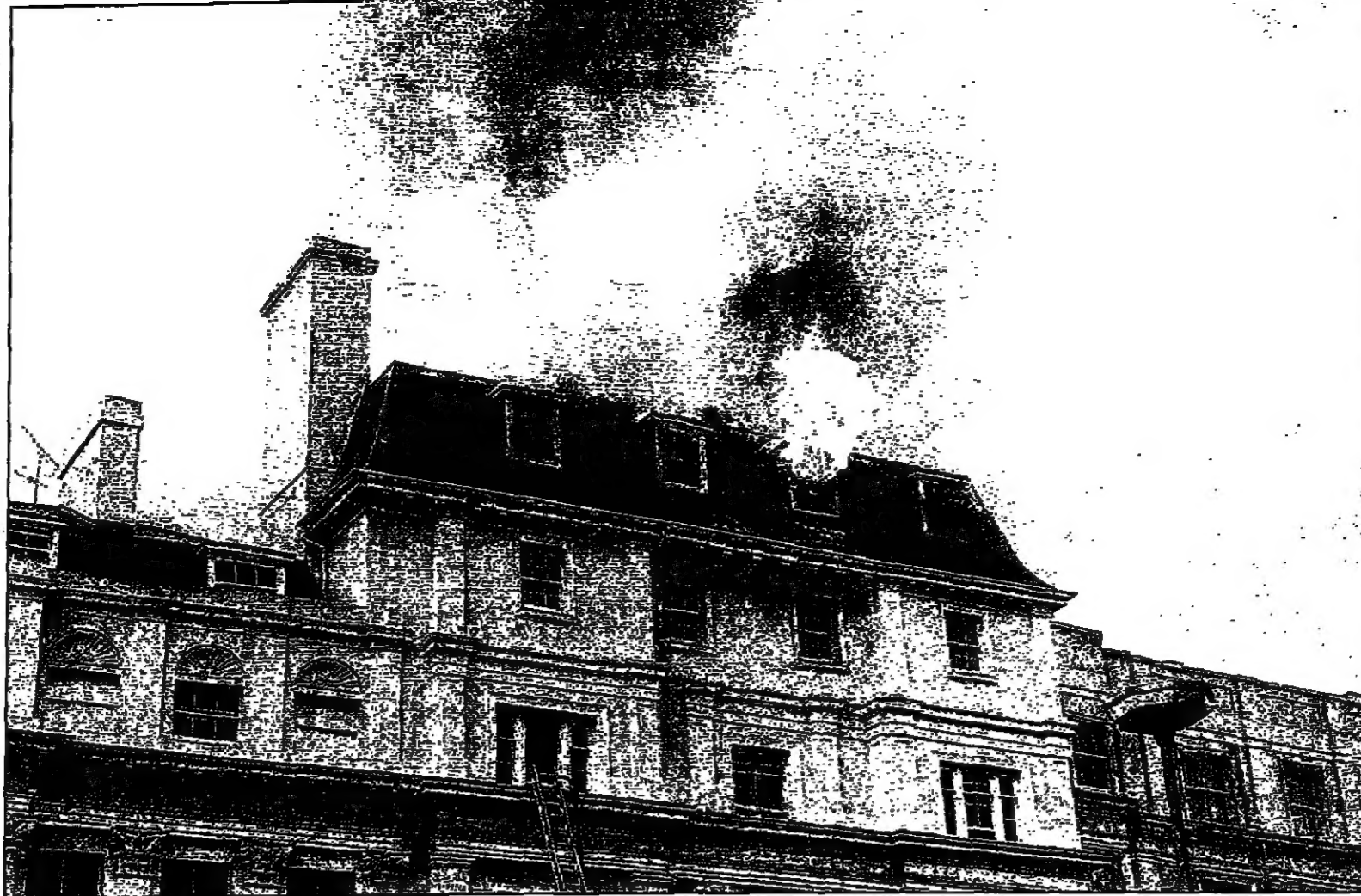
He added: "We must not do anything to penalise UK students and I hope there will not be too much dissension. We are already concerned to expand access and we are looking to drive more fund-raising for scholarships."

In 1960s there were protests at the LSE over the right for access to information and for students to be given more of a voice. Even Baroness Blackstone, then a junior lecturer and now the Higher Education Minister in the Lords, became involved in a sit-in.

Many former alumni have become famous, and include Karl Popper, William Beveridge, John F. Kennedy and Cherie Blair.

The LSE Standing Committee met to discuss the plans for the first time last night, and agreed to refer the issue back for further consultation on the grounds that it had not established whether higher fees would deter students and effect access. If this were found to be the case, the committee decided, an increase in hardship funds would also have to be introduced.

A spokesperson for the Department for Education and Employment yesterday said it hoped the LSE would veto the proposals. "The Government has not yet announced new rates for postgraduate students. This will be announced next month. We surprised they are proposing a rise more than the rate of inflation. Hopefully they will not do it."



The Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton. Sea winds fanned the flames of the fire, thought to have started in a chip pan in the ground-floor kitchen

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A COUPLE slept on for more than three hours as the hotel at which they were staying was burning down around them. They did not leave their first-floor room until the fire had spread to all five floors.

When the middle-aged couple, booked in under the name of Burton, eventually rushed out of the front of the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton, onlookers and hotel staff

## Couple slept on for hours as hotel burnt around them

said that they were lucky to be alive. They were directed to the nearby Thistle Hotel along with other guests, many of whom were still in their nightclothes, but they left soon afterwards.

They were among 120

guests and 30 staff evacuated without injury from the 115-bedroom hotel which dates back 170 years and is partially Grade II listed.

Strong sea winds had fanned the flames, and firefighters had to pump water

from the sea to tackle the fire. Emergency services cleared hundreds of onlookers away from the seafront as huge chunks of masonry and tiles crashed to the ground.

The hotel was staging a civil servants' union conference

when fire broke out just after 8am yesterday. It is believed to have started when a chip pan in a ground-floor kitchen caught fire and spread through a ventilation shaft to the top of the building.

Caroline Day, 28, one of the guests, last night criticised the evacuation procedures. Ms Day, who was in a room on the fourth floor, said that she had not been alerted by the hotel alarm, which sounded like a car alarm.

## Tory leader hints at Mandelson mystery

By CAROL MIDDLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FOUR words spoken by the Tory leader William Hague finally gave voice yesterday to one of the worst-kept secrets in Westminster.

Standing at the despatch box, Mr Hague made the first oblique reference in Parliament to allegations about Peter Mandelson's private life which have appeared in the latest issue of *Punch* magazine. National newspapers, television and radio have pointedly avoided repeating the claims which came on the Trade Secretary's alleged activities whilst on a ministerial trip to

Brazil. Mr Hague dropped what was being regarded by MPs as a minor bombshell as he mocked the Prime Minister's move to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights in the House of Lords. With a look of defiance the Opposition leader said: "He wants to create a House of Cronies beholden to him and him alone. It would be a House populated by Lord Draper of Lobbygate, Lord Robinson of Offshore Funds, Lord Mandelson of Rio and the Prime Minister himself, Baron of Ideas."

ITN broadcast the soundbite on its early evening news but did not seek to explain Mr Hague's reference to Rio and the Trade Secretary. The only view-

ers who may have understood the reference would have been regular readers of *Punch* or those who managed to catch the first edition of *The Daily Telegraph* last Wednesday.

The newspaper had run a story alluding to the allegations in *Punch* which concerned Mr Mandelson's homosexuality and the visit to Brazil in July. Without giving any detail, *The Daily Telegraph* claimed that the magazine article was highly actionable and amounted to a direct challenge to sue. However, the story was pulled after Mr Mandelson's aide telephoned the newspaper to advise them that the story was "utterly untrue". Mr Mandelson's pri-

ate life has been the subject of national debate since *The Times* columnist Matthew Parris described him as "certainly gay" in response to a question from Jeremy Paxman on BBC2's *Newsnight*. *The Express* on Sunday revived the story with a report entitled Peter's Friend which described in careful language Mr Mandelson's association with a Brazilian student now living in Japan. The student was said to have been close to John Major's former Downing Street adviser Howell James. The paper's Editor in Chief, Rosie Boycott, a neighbour of Mr Mandelson, insisted the article was read to him before publication.

## British TV triumphs at Emmies

BRITISH television productions, including BBC's *The Vicar of Dibley*, have captured half the major titles at the International Emmy Awards, which honour the best shows made outside America.

The comedy won the Popular Arts category for the final episode of the most recent series, which were made for the BBC by Tiger Aspect Productions. It was one of two BBC shows in the shortlist for the title - the other being BBC2's *Goodness Gracious Me*.

Dawn French, who stars in *The Vicar of Dibley*, said: "I would like to bless everybody involved and I am pleased that my plan of sleeping with all the judges from the four corners of the world clearly paid off."

A British-made version of the ballet, *The Judas Tree*, co-produced by Channel 4, won the *Performing Arts* title. The ballet was inspired by the events of Tiananmen Square.

## Newsman denies 'dumbing down'

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TREVOR McDONALD made a public pledge yesterday that ITV's new early evening news programme would not be "a dumbed-down version" of *News at Ten*, which will be taken off the air in January.

Responding to the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman's assertion that the Independent Television Commission's decision to axe the 31-year old programme was a "milestone in the dumbing down of Britain", Mr McDonald said that the new 6.30pm bulletin would be as good as, if not better than, *News at Ten*.

Mr McDonald, who will host the new 30-minute programme, to be called *The Evening News*, said that it would be a serious news bulletin which would rival the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*.

It was confirmed yesterday that the famous "bongs" which announced *News at Ten* have been preserved for *The Evening News*. ITV's new

11pm bulletin, *The Nightly News*, will be presented by Dermot Murnaghan.

Mr Kaufman, the chairman of the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, has accused ITV of being "patronising and offensive" in their bid to change their schedules and appeal to the "chattering classes" of Islington.

Yesterday Mr McDonald said that he was saddened by the demise of *News at Ten*, but relieved that the debate which had "ragged for years" had finally been resolved.

"We are determined to make the 6.30 news work. This is going to be a high-quality news programme, don't worry about that," he said.

"We will retain all the best elements of *News at Ten* and have the best stories."

Mr McDonald said that he was unfazed by dominance of the *Six O'Clock News* over ITV's 5.40 news. "That is about to change," he said.

## Nuclear pills

Some 550 families living near two nuclear power stations in Somerset have been sent protective tablets to take in case of a nuclear accident. Packets of potassium iodide, which protect against radioactive iodine, have been distributed in Sturgesey, near the Hinkley Point site. A spokesman said that it was not because of increased risk of an accident.

## Singer is freed

The rock musician Ian Brown was released from prison on bail pending an appeal against his conviction and four-month prison sentence for using threatening behaviour on an aircraft. The 35-year-old former Stone Roses singer was jailed after magistrates in Manchester heard he threatened an air stewardess.

## Hague flies to bird-breeder's aid

By PAUL WILKINSON

WILLIAM HAGUE has become embroiled in a dispute over the status of an aviary full of rare cockatoos and macaws.

Some of them have, like the original Monty Python parrot, passed away since Customs and Excise began to investigate Harry Sissen, a prominent bird breeder in Mr Hague's North Yorkshire constituency.

Mr Sissen was raided in the spring by officials in search of illegally imported parrots. Scores of birds worth a total of £200,000, including a number of endangered varieties, were seized.

Mr Sissen, 60, claims that at least five of the birds, which can fetch thousands of pounds each on a thriving world black market, have since died. The rest of his stock of about 500 birds has been impounded at the aviary.

In the course of a consultation with his MP on the matter, Mr Sissen admitted smuggling three Lear's macaws,

worth about £50,000, into the country from Yugoslavia. When details of this appeared in a specialist magazine, Customs and Excise asked the Tory leader and his constituency secretary to provide witness statements for use in a possible prosecution.

Last night a constituency spokesman said: "Mr Hague advised Mr Sissen to tell the authorities about these birds, but he could not compel him to do so. Now Customs are aware of it we have been asked to make a statement. It could be that Mr Hague could appear in court as a hostile witness against a constituent he has been trying to help."

In the meantime Mr Hague has written to Customs and Excise asking them to answer complaints that they have breached rules regarding the seizure of the birds and pressing them to bring charges or drop the investigation.

Mr Sissen says that his birds have been reared from others already in captivity, many of which he has had

since he began breeding 35 years ago.

Yesterday he headed off an attempt by a Customs vet and officials to take blood samples that could help to identify the origin of eight birds which are endangered breeds.

At his farm outside Northallerton he persuaded the vet that taking the samples in the afternoon would disturb the birds' pattern and could lead to their deaths. After he quoted Environment Department reg-

ulations which say that sampling should only be done in the morning, the Customs men retired, promising to return on Monday before noon.

"Some of the birds have got youngsters and I am not going to have them traumatised," Mr Sissen said. He admitted importing the macaws illegally, but said that he had been in the process of applying for permits when the raids took place. He said Mr Hague had been very supportive.

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**Tulip computers**

By PAUL WILKINSON

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# 3 hurt helicopter crash

Three men were injured seriously when a helicopter crashed in thick fog in an area of the city last night. The pilot, who suffered minor injuries, crawled from the wreckage and staggered across two fields to flag down a motorist to raise the alarm. The men were taken to Millers General Hospital, where one is undergoing treatment for severe injuries. A hospital spokesman said: "Three men have been admitted, although their lives are not in immediate danger." The injured were a 44-year-old man suffering from head, chest, abdominal and leg injuries and a 26-year-old man who suffered broken legs and lower back injuries.

## Body in pond

The body of a woman was found in the Italian Fontaine in Kensington Gardens, West London. Police, who are treating the death as suspicious, believe she could have been there for up to two weeks. The woman, a slim blonde, was found with a freckled complexion. Her name was not given, but the words "Fanny" were visible on her clothing.

## Pinochet warrant

A magistrate has issued a warrant for the arrest of General Augusto Pinochet, who is wanted over the disappearance of a French doctor. The doctor, Dr. Salvador Allende, was overthrown in a military coup in Chile in 1973. Pinochet is currently in London.

## Cruelty charge

A woman has been charged with cruelty after her 10-year-old son died of a heart attack. The child had been suffering from a long illness. The woman is accused of neglecting the child's medical needs.

## Bus strike

A bus strike is expected to cause major disruption in the city. The union representing the drivers is demanding better pay and conditions.

## Wives own

A group of women have formed a new organization to support their husbands. The group aims to provide a network of support and advice for wives of men in various professions.

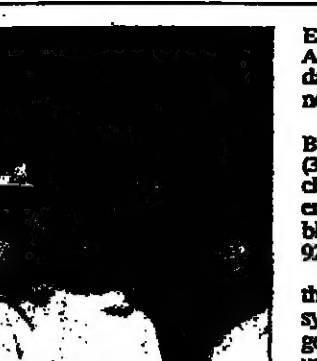
# Playboy's perfect woman is dead sexy

Robin Young ponders why the magazine's top 100 includes so few stars who are either alive or brunette

TO BE really sexy in the eyes of *Playboy* magazine a woman needs two vital attributes. She should be blonde and she should be deceased.

The magazine, long a self-appointed arbiter of feminine pulchritude, has published its list of the 100 sexiest women of the century. The two top sirens, according to the magazine's listing, are Marilyn Monroe, who appeared on *Playboy*'s first cover in 1953 and died nearly 40 years ago, and Jayne Mansfield, busty star of the rock 'n' roll film *The Girl Can't Help It*, who was decapitated in a road accident in 1962.

Other deceased blondes featured in the list include Jean Harlow, the original "blonde bombshell" (10th), Anita Ekberg, star of *La Dolce Vita* (14th), the leggy Betty Grable



Sexy stars: Marilyn Monroe, top of the list; Grace Kelly, 26th; Raquel Welch, third; and Joan Collins, 38th

(17th), sultry Kim (Kiss me Stupid) Novak (18th), Lana Turner (25th) and Grace Kelly (26th).

Overcoming the disadvantages of being both brunette and still alive, but notably well

endowed in the bosom department, Raquel Welch is preferred to the animals' best friend, Brigitte Bardot, to finish third. The surgically enhanced Pamela Anderson totters in eighth, while Bo Derek

from the film *10* goes one better to finish at No 9.

The list is dominated by film stars from Hollywood's golden age, and Cindy Crawford is the top-ranked beauty from the world of modelling. Placed

fifth, she is well ahead of Elle Macpherson (23rd) and Claudia Schiffer (59th).

Americans start with a huge advantage in the American publication's ratings. Sophia Loren is the most highly rated

European (66th), with Ursula Andress 19th, Gina Lollobrigida 20th and Catherine Deneuve 45th.

Joan Collins is the sexiest Briton in *Playboy*'s lustful eyes (38th) — unless we can still claim Elizabeth Taylor (seventh). Our very own deceased blonde, Diana Dors, is placed 92nd.

It is disappointing to find that some long-venerated sex symbols appear to have undergone a loss of allure down the years. Marlene Dietrich seems under-rated at 32nd, and the inexpressibly suggestive Mae West would surely have something to say about being placed 44th.

The list probably says more about the age of *Playboy* readers than it does about the sexiness of women.

## THE SEXIEST WOMEN OF THE CENTURY

- Marilyn Monroe
- Jayne Mansfield
- Raquel Welch
- Brigitte Bardot
- Cindy Crawford
- Sophia Loren
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Joan Collins
- Bo Derek
- Kim Novak
- Anita Ekberg
- Betty Grable
- Gina Lollobrigida
- Evelyn Nesbit
- Jane Powell
- Elle Macpherson
- Sharon Stone
- Lana Turner
- Grace Kelly
- Kim Novak
- Janet Sefton
- Marnie Nixon
- Jane Fonda
- Marlene Dietrich
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Joan Collins
- Candy Lovell
- Clara Bow
- Josephine Baker
- Angie Dickinson
- Paul Robeson
- Mae West
- Catherine Deneuve
- Donna Rickles
- Halle Berry
- Candy Barr
- Brooke Shields
- Sharon Stone

### OTHER PLACINGS

- Grete Garbo 88
- Claudia Schiffer 59
- Christie Brinkley 64
- Paula Patton 65
- Nancy Campbell 66
- Dani Moore 67
- Ava Gardner 78
- Diana Ross 79
- Gipsy Rose Lee 84
- Joan Crawford 92
- Diana Dors 92
- Fay Wray 95
- Katharine Hepburn 97
- Dolly Parton 98
- Mata Hari 100
- Lillian Hellman 100

# Fears grow for little girl lost for two nights

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE and volunteers spent a second night searching in sub-zero temperatures for Charlotte Jones, the three-year-old who vanished from her front garden on Monday evening.

Her mother, Michelle, 24, was told police that the girl disappeared after they had gone to the front gate to say goodbye to a visitor, believed to be the child's social worker.

Yesterday, forensic teams erected a large tent in the front garden of the house in Dal-

lam, near Warrington, Cheshire. In what they described as a routine step, police took away Miss Jones's black Vauxhall Astra for examination.

Charlotte and her mother moved into the house three months ago and police are concerned that if the girl got lost she may have come to harm either on the railway or Dallow Brook canal, both of which run close to her home. Divers searched the canal yesterday and a helicopter with a heat-sensing device scoured the railway and a neighbouring park.

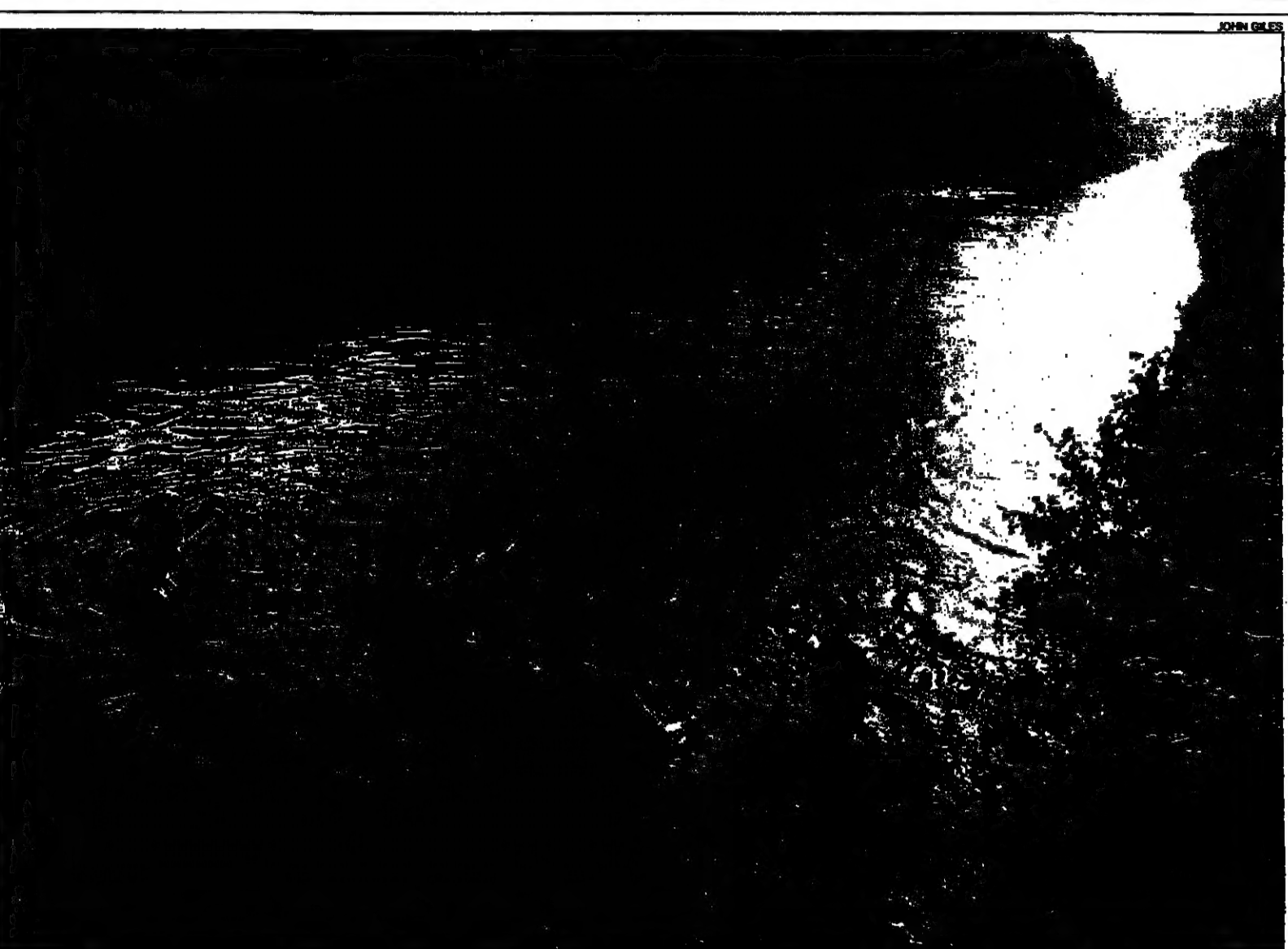
Officers from four forces have been brought in to search for Charlotte. Chief Inspector Tim Jackson, of Cheshire Police, said: "We are treating Charlotte as lost but we are very concerned for her safety."

Police are trying to trace Charlotte's father, who separated from her mother soon after the child was born. Mr Jackson said: "They do not know where the father is, but he is not part of the inquiry."

Charlotte is 3ft 6in and was wearing a purple bubble jacket, a Winnie-the-Pooh jumper and 101 Dalmatians leggings.



Charlotte Jones: missing since Monday evening



A police underwater unit searching the canal near Charlotte's home yesterday. Officers are afraid she may have fallen into the water

# Trawler snatches fisheries navy men

By Michael Hornsey  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL NAVY officers were kidnapped by Dutch fishermen during a confrontation in the North Sea, it was disclosed yesterday.

Four officers from HMS *Quorn*, a minehunter assigned to fisheries protection duty for the Ministry of Agriculture, boarded a Dutch trawler in the Dover Straits before dawn on November 19.

When asked to haul up his fishing gear for inspection, the trawler master allegedly threatened the boarding party with violence before jettisoning his nets and making a dash for Belgian waters with the navy men still on board.

"The men were held for about an hour and allowed off to return to HMS *Quorn* inside the Belgian 12-mile limit, where British fisheries protection vessels have no jurisdiction," a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said.

"The incident began with two officers going on board for a routine inspection to check the size of nets and catches recorded in the log book. When it became clear that the Dutch master was not cooperating, two more officers went on board."

The *Jozina* eventually put into the Dutch port of Flushing, while HMS *Quorn* returned to British waters to search in vain for the nets.

"The matter is now with the Dutch authorities who are investigating the incident," the spokesman said. "Obviously we will be keeping an eye on the Dutch vessel and would like to speak to the master if he comes into British waters again."

Hundreds of inspections are carried out every year by the fisheries protection squadron of seven purpose-built offshore patrol boats and four minehunters. Several years ago a French trawler off the Channel Islands made off with fisheries inspection officers on board and released them in Normandy.

# How researchers got dunking to a tea

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE latest scientific research took the biscuit yesterday, by discovering the glories and hazards of dunking. It revealed what many of the keenest practitioners have long known: that a timely dunk — not too short, not too long — of a biscuit into a cup of tea releases ten times the flavour achieved by eating the biscuit dry.

The study also demonstrated the level of skill involved. A biscuit dipped in hot tea is living dangerously: its pores soak up the tea, its starch particles begin to expand, and the sugar that binds it together begins to melt. It is all too easy to leave half a sodden biscuit at the bottom of the cup.

Len Fisher, an honorary research fellow at the University of Bristol, says

that the rate at which a biscuit soaks up tea depends on the viscosity and surface tension of the tea, and the pore diameter of the biscuit. This given by Washburn's equation, first worked out 80 years ago by Cyril Washburn, a scientist interested in how quickly blotting paper soaks up ink.

Of the three biscuits tested, Hobnobs had the smallest pores, Digestives the next smallest and Ginger Nuts the largest. This suggested that Hobnobs ought to provide the longest dunk, but the experiments proved otherwise.

In fact, the Digestives survived longest — eight seconds in tea at 80C — against four seconds for Hobnobs and as little as three for the Ginger Nuts.

This was because Digestives have a hard-baked outer layer, which lowers their porosity.

What happens next is that the wetted biscuit starts to warm up. When it reaches 68C, the starch grains start to take up water and swell. "They can take up 100 times their own volume of water," says Dr Fisher. Tests showed that the process weakens the biscuit, which begins to deform under its own weight.

"Dry biscuits are incredibly strong," says Dr Fisher. "In theory, they should be able to support their own weight if only a hundredth of their thickness remains dry. But in practice they start to go much sooner as cracks spread."

There is one way of stopping this,

and that is to prevent cracks ever starting. A chocolate coating, which has plastic properties, is the ideal material. So a chocolate digestive, laid chocolate-side up on the surface of the tea at a very shallow angle, offers the perfect dunk.

"It releases the flavour, and doesn't fall apart," says Dr Fisher with the air of a man who has just discovered the Theory of Relativity.

His work was financed by McVitie's to celebrate what they call National Dunking Day. At their sites around the country, staff were engaged on various competitions involving dunking, all in aid of charity. Their aim was to raise at least £5,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

A GANG including a boy of 15 threatened to chop off a businessman's fingers in a 13-hour kidnap ordeal.

Two members of the gang, who were discovered in an Oxfordshire hideout, were last night starting jail sentences. The teenage son of one of them was given a supervision order.

They bundled Ian Faulk into a car boot after abducting him at a service station on the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire, in January. They forced him to reveal his bank details by threatening to mutilate him.

# Boy, 15, recruited into kidnap gang

By Helen Johnstone

Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday, Mr Faulk was dumped in a field and was rescued after calling police on his mobile phone.

Matthew Forrest, 24, was jailed for 12 years after admitting his part in the kidnap. Philip Huggins, 42, was sentenced to 11 years after admitting false imprisonment. Both also admitted conspiracy to rob and other charges. Huggins's son Daniel, now 16, received a two-year supervision order after admitting his role in the abduction.

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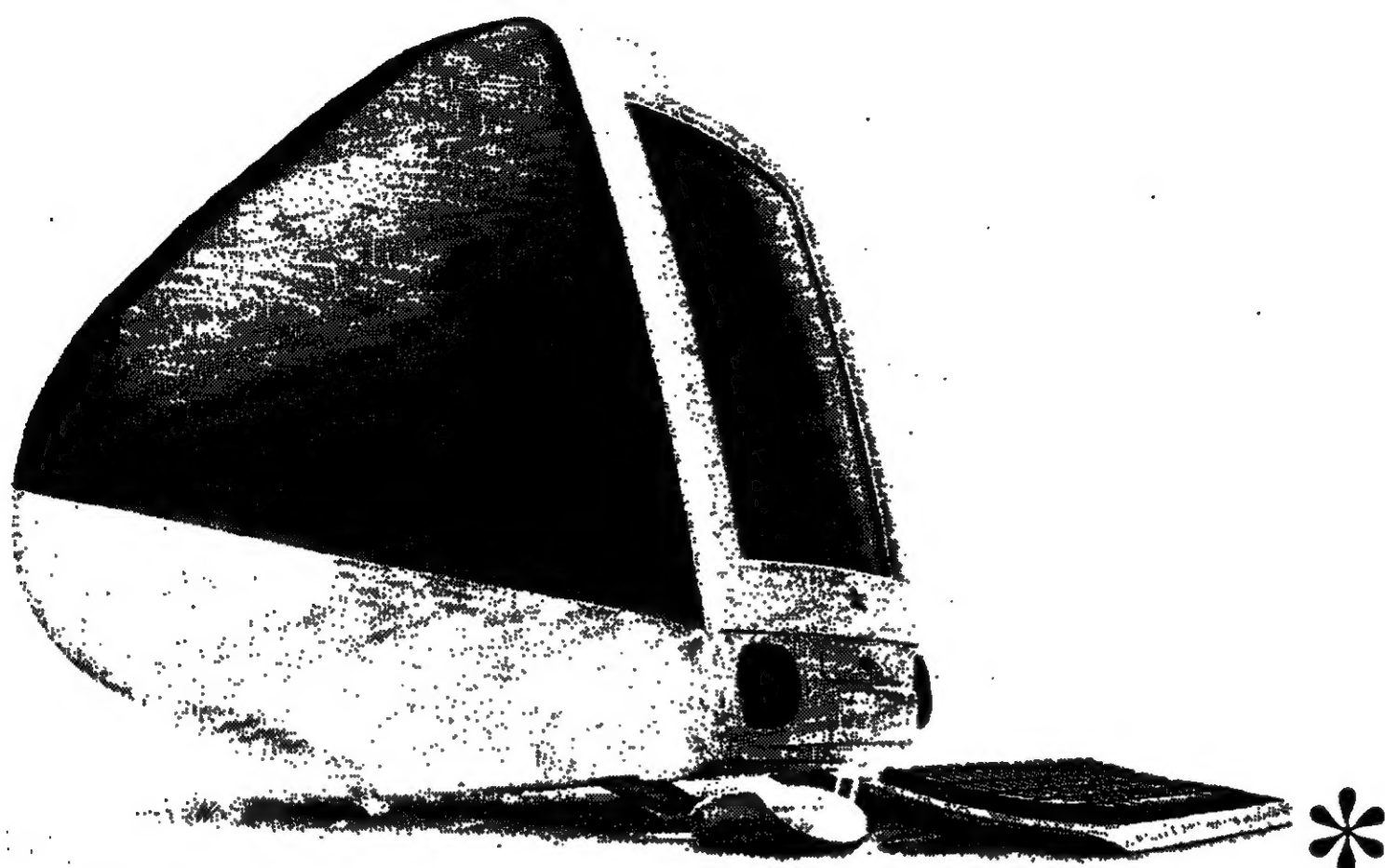
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# Prince's Trust fined £10,000 for wall deaths

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE Prince's Trust was fined £10,000 yesterday after admitting responsibility for the deaths of two volunteers who were killed when a concrete wall collapsed on top of them.

The trust, set up by the Prince of Wales to provide training for young people, pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the safety of Gary Leaburn, 25, and Derek Taylor, 19, on the Orkney island of North Ronaldsay.

The men, from Dundee, were buried beneath five tonnes of concrete when repairing a sea wall. It took seven hours to recover their bodies. The section of wall was said to be well beyond the competency of volunteers.

"It was a tragic end for two promising lads," said Sheriff Colin Scott McKenzie at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. "At the end of the day, it may be thought that The Prince's Trust is where the buck stops. Their penalty will reflect that."

Two other organisations, Adult Community Education (Dundee) and Angus College in Alroath, were fined £5,000 and £2,500 for their involvement. Both pleaded guilty under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Sheriff McKenzie said: "Two lives have been lost and, to reflect that, sums must be high, but I also take into ac-

count the considerable difficulty and effects in penalising what are essentially charities."

Elizabeth Crowther-Hunt, executive director of the Prince's Trust Volunteers, said after the hearing that everyone was deeply upset by the deaths. "It is clear that our health and safety procedures, which had proved adequate over many years, were insufficient on this occasion. We have made our procedures clearer and put in place new measures to do everything we can to prevent anything like this happening again. The health and safety of the young people on our programme is our highest priority."

The 12-week course had been advertised in local newspapers as "fun, free and challenging". Volunteers who formed Team 26 travelled to North Ronaldsay to repair a ten-year-old drystone dyke along 12 miles of the island's coast. The Prince of Wales, who visited the island in 1993, had seen the damage done by storms, and for four years volunteers reinforced the wall.

But when they arrived last summer, the volunteers were told by Billy Muir, the chairman of the community council, that they would be working on a section made from concrete. "Had safety been

high on the agenda, it would have been obvious this project was well outside the competency of this group," said Graeme Napier, the Procurator Fiscal. A health and safety examination after the accident concluded that the collapse was "entirely foreseeable".

The three organisations expressed their sympathies to the victims' families. David Stewart, solicitor for The Prince's Trust, said: "In the tragic circumstances which brings us here, the trust accepts they should have done more to ensure provision for risk assessment training." Mr Stewart said the trust had no idea that the work which led to the accident was being carried out by volunteers.

Since 1976, the trust has provided grants, training and study programmes for more than 150,000 youngsters.



The Duke of York receiving a Fijian warriors' welcome yesterday on the island of Beqa, in the South Pacific. The warriors chanted as they waded out of knee-deep water carrying the Duke, who was protected from the sun by an elaborately covered waka, or platform. To mark his visit to Sauvan village during his five-day tour of Fiji, the warriors performed a traditional firewalking ceremony over

white-hot rocks, a feat for which they had been preparing for a month. As is customary, the Duke was presented with a whale's tooth, the equivalent of the freedom of the city or village.

## Asian boy invited BNP to school

By Dominic Kennedy

THE British National Party, which campaigns to repatriate immigrants, was invited by an Asian pupil to address boys at a public school.

The Master of Dulwich College, Graham Able, has disclosed in a letter published in *The Times* today that "a sixth-former of Asian background" asked the BNP's press officer to speak to pupils on Monday. The school has been exploring the "extremes of British politics", with other speakers coming from the Socialist Workers Party and Anti-Nazi League.

*Searchlight*, the anti-fascist magazine, condemned the school for inviting a BNP speaker to South London, where the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was murdered. The 18-year-old A-level student was stabbed in 1993 at a bus stop in Eltham, the third such murder in the area in two years. "You only have to look

at what happened in Eltham, where they have pumped out this trash for years, and what it has led to. The last place they should be is near children."

Dulwich College has a high proportion of pupils from ethnic minorities. The latest inspection by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference said: "The mixing of cultures and races and the mutual respect and understanding displayed are particularly impressive features."

Chris Field, the Deputy Master, said he had spoken yesterday to teachers who had taken sixth-formers for lessons immediately after the Monday lunchtime meeting of the Sociology Society. "The boys had realised they were listening to an intelligent man, but who had misguided ideas," he said.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

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# Portrait of the artist's house as a lost cause

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A CHILDHOOD home of James Joyce has been flattened to make way for an apartment block, despite an order to preserve its facade. Fans from around the world had campaigned for two years to save the building, which features in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Finnegans Wake*.

Dublin Corporation is considering legal action against the developer, who says that the building's dilapidated state was a danger to children. Four fires in the past year have caused extensive damage to the walls and roof.

Joyce was 12 when the family lived at Millbourne Avenue, Drumcondra. The writer had been born into wealth in 1882, but his alcoholic father drank the family fortune. The family had 16 addresses in 20 years, moving each time to evade rent arrears.

Ken Monaghan, the writer's nephew, was "deeply saddened" by the demolition. He said: "It would be ridiculous to think that all the houses Joyce lived in could be preserved as museums or memorials, but it would have been nice to preserve Millbourne, because it really captures the descent from the good days to the bad days." Dublin Corporation,

the city-centre council, last year gave developers the right to build apartments provided they maintained the exterior of the two-storey house built in 1890. It was razed on Sunday.

In *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce's most intensely autobiographical work, the Millbourne scene has Stephen Dedalus, the novel's main character, returning from a day at university to find his brothers and sisters sitting in penury around the kitchen table.

Dedalus "pushed open the latched door of the porch and passed through the naked hallway in to the kitchen. A group of his brothers and sisters

were sitting around the table. Tea was nearly over and only the last of the second watered tea remained in the bottom of the small glass jars and jam-pots which did service for tea-cups".

Mrs Joyce gave birth to her 11th child in Millbourne Avenue, although the infant died shortly after birth. Joyce referred to the house in *Finnegans Wake* as "2 Milch-broke. Wrongly spelled. Traumcondraws".

Patrick O'Rourke, the developer, said that he was unaware that Joyce had lived in the house. He said he thought the most famous owner had been an archbishop.

Millbourne is the second of Joyce's former homes to be demolished. Vivien Igoe, author of *James Joyce's Dublin Houses*, fears that developers will now raze 15 Usher's Island, another of the houses and the setting for the powerful short story *The Dead*. The house is run-down and its windows are blocked up by corrugated iron.

"It is such a pity to see this happening when our economy is booming," she said. "We only need to preserve the buildings and put up a plaque to remind people about Joyce. But we don't seem to be able to manage even that."



Joyce's family had 16 homes in 20 years



Before: the childhood home where the 12-year-old Joyce experienced poverty that he never forgot



Now: the building has been flattened despite a two-year campaign. The developer says it was dangerous

## Soldiers on exercise poisoned by fumes

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

SOLDIERS had to be treated in hospital yesterday after being overcome by exhaust fumes during an exercise.

The 77 men from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were working in a disused hanger at Hurlingham RAF base in Wiltshire when they were taken ill with carbon monoxide poisoning. After tests, 58 were detained and the rest discharged.

The soldiers were taking part in a four-week exercise designed to test their abilities to service and repair military helicopters in adverse conditions. Health and safety experts were last night examining a generator thought to have been the source of the fumes.

The alarm was raised at 10pm on Monday night when one of the soldiers had difficulty waking up from an off-duty break. Several others also complained of feeling ill.

An army spokesman said: "When they deploy on operations such as this, they have to work in difficult conditions without electricity and so on, such as they might find in places like Bosnia."

"They use small mobile generators to power their tools and equipment. These generators have a flexible exhaust tube, which is fed through a gap in a door or window."

"This is supposed to take all the exhaust fumes out. How it came to be that exhaust fumes were in the building is what we are now investigating."

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# 45mph cyclist caught on the tail of lorry

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A CYCLIST caught doing 45mph just a foot from the rear of a lorry was fined yesterday for riding without due care and attention.

Peter Archer, 36, a racing enthusiast who pedals 18 miles a day to and from work, admitted the charge, but said that he was doing only 37mph. "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man," he said after the case.

In October 1997 police stopped a housewife on her bicycle, riding at 43mph through a radar trap. Ros Jones, 43, of Carmarthen, had been advised to take up gentle cycling by her swimming instructor.

Archer said that a computer on his bicycle told him that 37mph was his maximum speed when the offence occurred on July 7. He said that he was at least 6ft behind the lorry on the A141 in March, Cambridgeshire. He was fined £35.

Police estimated, by judging his speed against their speedometer, that he was doing 45mph on his mountain bike

in the slipstream of a lorry on the rural road, which had a 60mph limit.

Fenland magistrates were told that Archer ignored police signals to pull over. He said he thought that the officers were signalling to the lorry driver.

The father of two, from March, condemned the decision to prosecute him as petty. "I couldn't reach 45mph unless I was very, very fit and had a much better bike. If the police thought I was riding

badly, surely a warning would have been enough. At least five times a week I see people doing silly things in cars.

Taking me to court is extremely petty. I am sure there are real criminals who are laughing at this because it took the spotlight off them."

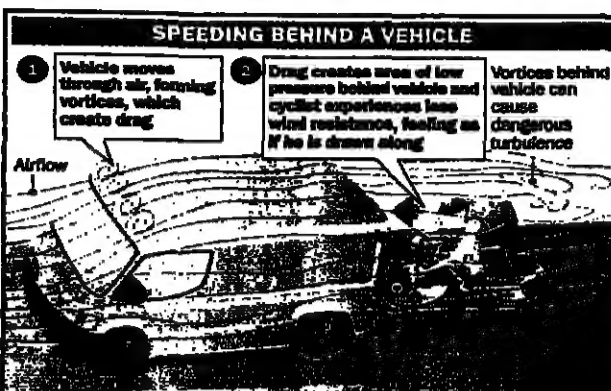
PC Vic Smith, Cambridgeshire police's Casualty Reduction Officer, declined to comment on the case but said that riding without due care and attention was a charge occasion-

ally levelled at cyclists. In June 1997 the Government announced a clampdown on bad cycling, saying that cyclists who rode without due care and attention would face fines of up to £1,000.

Cyclists call it "drafting" — the trick of slotting in behind another cyclist in a race and getting a pull. It works even better with a truck. If you are foolhardy enough to try it (Nigel Hawkes writes).

"A rider is very unsteady," said John Bradshaw, a mathematician and cycle enthusiast from Lancaster University. "It's all those bits sticking out that do it." This means that the top speed that can be reached by an ordinary cyclist, even downhill, is 45mph, but far higher speeds are possible behind a large vehicle.

The record is 166.94mph, set at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 1995 by Fred Rompelberg, of Holland. He rode behind a large windmill, tucking in to the region of low pressure immediately behind so that he was dragged along.



Peter Archer denied doing 45mph: "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man"

## Prisoner on hunger strike for 50 days

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PRISONER entered his 50th day of a hunger strike yesterday in protest at government policy on vivisection.

Barry Horne, an animal rights extremist jailed for a bombing campaign, received final rites in a pagan ceremony in the prison hospital on Sunday. Doctors at Full Sutton are preparing to transfer him to intensive care in hospital in York if his condition becomes worse. Friends say he now cannot leave his bed and is close to unconsciousness.

Horne, 46, has stipulated that he should not be put on life-support, should he become unaware of what is going on.

The Animals Betrayed Coalition said that he had offered to end his strike if a date was set for a royal commission on animal experiments, and that Labour had promised this before the election.

The Prison Service said that it was deeply concerned at his condition. A spokesman said that the consultant monitoring his condition reported that he was currently stable.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Disabled boy wins £3m claim

A 12-year-old boy severely brain damaged at birth was awarded £3.25 million damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

David Reynolds needs full-time care because of cerebral palsy. He was born at Poole General Hospital, Dorset, in May 1986 in a forceps delivery. He did not breathe for 18 minutes. East Dorset Health Authority also agreed to pay legal costs and £27,500 compensation to Susan Reynolds, 44, for internal injuries suffered during the delivery.

#### Funfair rescue

Funfair revellers on a "white-kimble" ride were stuck in mid-air — some upside down — for 45 minutes before rescue by ladder in a suspected hydraulic failure at Aberystwyth. Seven were treated for shock and bruised muscles.

#### Hedgehog abuse

A man was fined £75 for playing football with a hedgehog. Neil Woodyatt, 20, of Wauwryd, South Wales, was charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a wild mammal after police saw him kicking it. The hedgehog was unhurt.

#### Hot on the trail

Detectives found 212 stolen antique fireplaces worth about £500,000 in two raids in Luton and Ampthill, Bedfordshire. One fireplace made from Italian marble is alone worth £10,000. Possible owners were urged to contact Luton police.

#### Reliant stung

Police laid spiked metal "stinger" strips around an industrial estate in Fleetwood, Lancashire, to puncture the tyres of a runaway Reliant Robin. Its driver had eluded bigger police cars by driving through a small hole in a fence.

## Jet's crew lose dog, but gain a hamster

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FLIGHT from London to Melbourne proved to be fraught with difficulty for a pet owner who lost her dog, and a for hamster that lost its owner. Airline staff admitted defeat yesterday in their efforts to reunite them all.

The first to go absent without leave was a bull mastiff, which broke free from its cage to go walkabout in the cargo hold of the Boeing 747. The dog is thought to have left the British Airways plane on its own without being noticed during a stopover at Bangkok.

The dog's Australian owner disembarked in Sydney only to be told that her pet was missing. Staff searched the cargo hold and the huge airport to no avail.

"We have no idea how he got away, but he is definitely nowhere to be found," said a spokeswoman. "We think he must have slipped off on transfer at Bangkok."

"We are very sorry for this. We carry more than 1,000 dogs a year without any problem, but we simply can't find this one."

The owner, who lives in Sydney, has been offered two free tickets to Bangkok as compensation for her loss last Saturday.

The hamster was an unofficial traveller and was spotted scampering down the aisle on the Bangkok to Sydney leg. It is believed to have fled from hand baggage in the passenger cabin.

Once cornered, it was looked after by airline staff but no owner has admitted responsibility for breaking international aviation law by taking the pet on board without reporting to the authorities.

"We are still waiting for someone to come forward, but we will have to let animal welfare officers look after it if no one accepts responsibility," said the spokeswoman.

## Shot man 'broke into own home'

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A POLICE marksman shot dead a man who had locked himself out of his home after his girlfriend reported an armed burglary in progress, an inquest was told yesterday.

Michael Fitzgerald, 32, was mistaken for a burglar after his girlfriend, Melanie Jay, reported seeing legs disappear through the kitchen window and did not recognise him. It later emerged that Mr Fitzgerald, an unemployed railway worker, had left his house keys in a jacket in a pub.

Police evacuated people from their homes after being told that the man had also told that the man had also been seen with a gun. Marksmen surrounding Mr Fitzgerald's home in Bedford in February saw him lean out of a window, brandishing a gun.

The inquest was told that officers had spent 90 minutes trying to talk to Mr Fitzgerald on the telephone. But, when he leant from the window and pointed the gun, one police officer had fired. Mr Fitzgerald's weapon, which turned

out to be a replica Colt 45 pistol, led to the first fatal shooting involving Bedfordshire Police since its officers were armed 13 years ago. A post-mortem examination showed that he died from a single shot.

The dead man's sister, Mary, said: "Somebody could have contacted a member of the family. Nobody knew what had happened. The operation went too fast."

The jury at the Bedford inquest was told that the officer who had fired the shot had been taken off firearms duty, but had not been suspended.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies, of Thames Valley Police, who was appointed by the Police Complaints Authority, said that he had found no basis for criminal liability in the actions of any individual officer. The case was also referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which decided that there was no justification for criminal proceedings.

The inquest, which is expected to last four days, continues.



Surprisingly ordinary prices





## Pop star joins safe sex crusade, writes **Helen Rumbelow**

The projected figures for

The first move to making condoms more available is the appointment of William Roedy, the executive director of MTV, the pop music chan-

The female condom had been a surprising success, he said, as women in Africa were keen to be put in charge of their own protection.



## BY MARCUS BINNEY

Recently Mr Norman's trust held a music workshop with 100 children, who worked for five days to put a concert on stage with the rock group Stomp. Mr Norman has enlisted five main

The Roundhouse was built in 1846 to the design of Robert Stephenson, the railway engineer. But after 12 years it was taken over by Gilbey's Gin as a bonded warehouse. It was adopted as an arts centre by Wesker in 1964 and also served as a launchpad for rock acts such as Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, the

If Mr Norman's applications for £125 million grant from the Arts Council and £45 million grant from Heritage Lottery Fund are successful, he hopes to start work late in 2000 and reopen in 2002. He has already committed £6.2 million from his own trust.



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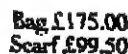
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A police spokeswoman said: "Children nowadays are very sophisticated. Other forces use actors but you cannot fool teenagers. If people are prepared to pay money to see *Saving Private Ryan*, which includes images of soldiers being blown apart, they can cope with seeing footage of dead people."

Mr Walden said: "We are investigating what Kelvin was doing when he fell into the acid." He did not know from what height Mr Beynon had fallen.

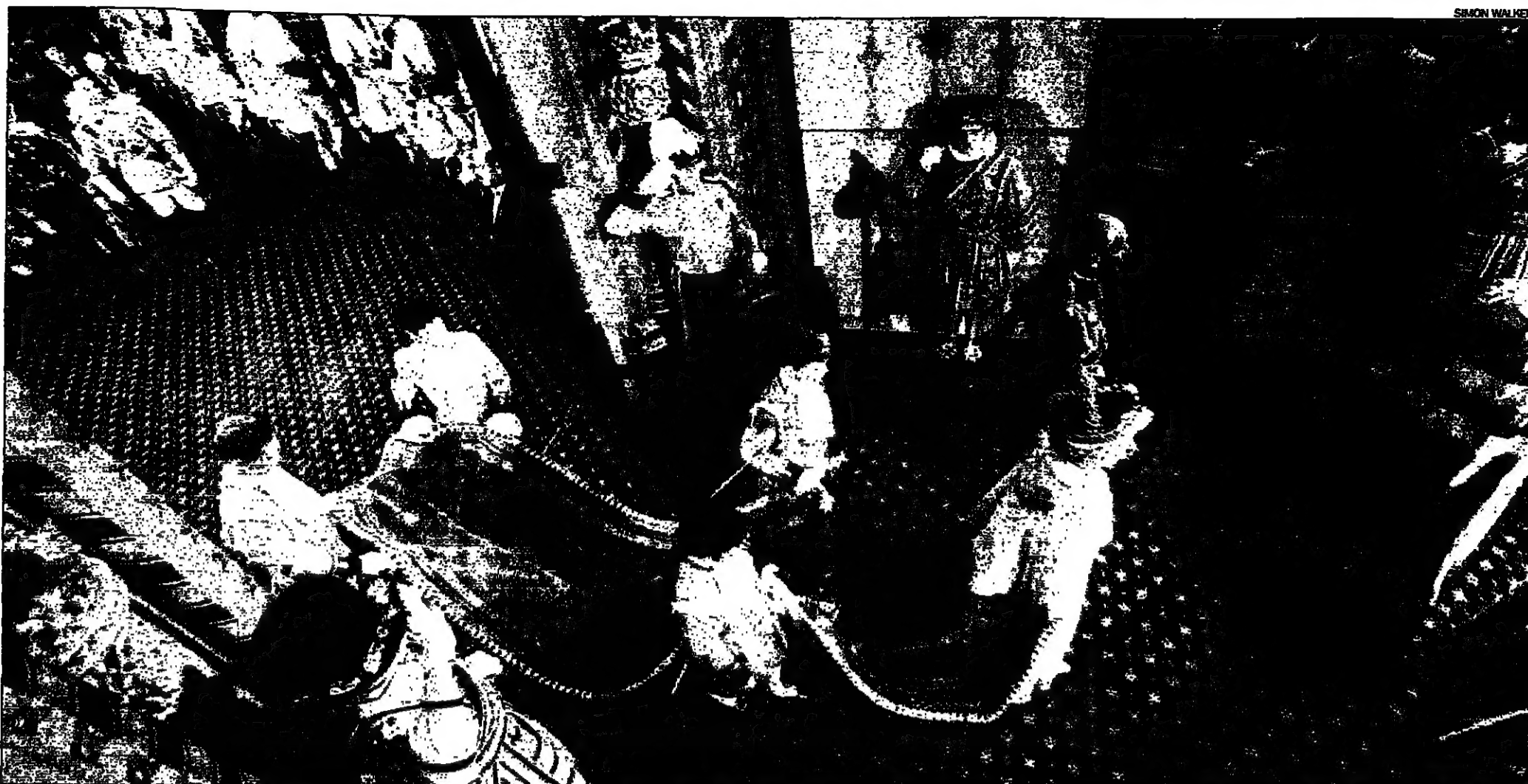


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مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



# THE QUEEN'S SPEECH



The Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh at the State Opening of Parliament yesterday. Labour MPs shouted "Hear, hear" as she announced a Bill abolishing the rights of hereditary peers

## A SUMMARY OF THE BILLS

- Bill to scrap NHS internal market...
- Bill to modernise Youth Courts and give greater protection to vulnerable witnesses.
- Bill to modernise legal aid.
- Bill to overhaul social security system, including reform of disability benefits, split of pensions on divorce, introduction of second-tier stakeholder pensions.
- Bill to bring in the Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit.
- Legislation to establish Disability Rights Commission.
- Measures to establish "fairness at work".
- Bill to merge Contributions Agency and Inland Revenue.
- Legislation to modernise local government in England and Wales.
- Legislation to establish directly-elected mayor for London and separate elected assembly.
- Establishment of Regional Development Agencies.
- Bill to remove right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in House of Lords.
- Legislation to provide fair basis for water charges.
- Legislation to improve regulation of financial services by Financial Services Authority.
- Bill to reduce age of consent for homosexuals to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland and 17 in Northern Ireland.
- Bill to modernise immigration and asylum laws.
- Bill to convert Commonwealth Development Corporation into public-private partnership.
- Reintroduction of Bill to bring in proportional representation for European parliamentary elections.
- Measure for Government to recoup from insurance companies cost to NHS of treating traffic accident victims.
- Draft proposals on a Freedom of Information Act and reform of party funding.

## Truly, madly, democratic Lords have no peers

It was an historic day in the House of Lords. It only needed Mick Jagger to gyrate down the chamber singing "This could be the last time". Which would not have seemed odd, since this State Opening was remarkable for its atmosphere of Mick-and-Jerry-style glamour, as well as its unaccustomed noise.

The din was the rumble of "Hear, hear" that erupted from Labour MPs when the Queen came to the bit about ending hereditary peerages. The royal voice was fearless as it uttered these radical sentiments, and the "Hear, hear" was clearly audible. Interrupting Her Majesty! Nobody had ever heard of such a thing. Stunned, Bateman cartoon faces turned to glare towards the miscreants: the Labour MPs who had just been led in by Black Rod to assume their traditional huddle at the end of the chamber. "New Labour, No Manners", harrumphed Baroness Strange as she swept monumentally out of the central lobby afterwards.

Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare emerged with several new wrinkles, etched by rage. "I am absolutely disgusted," he huffed. "Next to me sat my friend Robert Ferrers [the 13th Earl] who told me he had never in 44 years in the House heard anything so disgraceful as interrupting the Queen's Speech." But Lord Archer would be all in favour of wresting the earldom from his friend's heirs, however. Hadn't he begged Michael Howard to get in quick and reform the Lords before Labour did? Mr Howard said there was neither time nor inclination. But Lord Archer's reform would have been painless: ex-



Valerie Grove is amused by an atmosphere of pop-star glamour nearly 30 years after she attended her last State Opening

isting hereditary peers would continue to sit until they dropped dead. "We'd be rid of most of them in about ten years," he beamed. "Simple!"

It is nearly 30 years since I last attended this amusing occasion, a galling reminder of how many of my contemporaries and even juniors are now ennobled, sometimes on mystifying pretexts. But for the most part it is *déjà vu* all round: the nursery rhyme thrones, the flunkies and flummery, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, Alice in Wonderland stuff. The sheer absurdity of dressing up in tiaras and long evening gowns on a dark, wet November day. The long-suffering hubbub as the ermined ones wait for the procession of playing-card figures. The way the Duke of Edinburgh arranges his princely limbs in the perfect consort's pose. The delicious mis-matchings of placements, everyone so huggemugger they sit squeezed with people they'd never dream of having to dinner, but find they quite like chatting to after all.

Josephine Hart, the novelist, whose husband is Lord Saatchi, in plunging black velvet and an Edwardian diamond-and-pearl collar, made best friends with Marianna, wife of Lord Falconer of Thoron, Mr Blair's Cabinet fixer. Lord Bragg found himself bunched up with the elegant Gita Feldman, wife of Baron Feldman, Tory party stalwart.

The presence of a film star had everyone craning at Jamie Lee Curtis, demure and slender in understated dignity with her short, severe haircut and simple gold laurel wreath, among the ambassadors' wives and tiara'd peeresses. But nobody could identify her husband, Christopher, the 5th Baron Haden-Guest, though the rumour spread that he had appeared as a boy in *The Go Between*. But for sheer glamour Pauline Prescott, up in the gallery with Cherie, outshone the jewelled ladies below in a stunning, scarlet Ascot hat the size of a bucket.

There were other harrumphing matters: poor Lord Irvine of Lairg's failure to back away from the Queen (he turned his back on her instead). But at least he was still in the stockings he finds so tiresome, while Margaret Beckett opted daringly for the trouser suit, another break with tradition.

This may indeed have been the very last State Opening of its kind. Which might partly account for the Gioconda smile worn by Baroness Jay of Paddington. But if it is, I think we shall miss the hilarious incongruity of the Lords as we know it — scions of ancient families cheek by jowl with jumped-up street traders (did you ever see anyone more like a barrow boy than Lord Harlech?), which is, after all, more truly and madly democratic than a meritocracy.

## House of Fraser One Day Spectacular

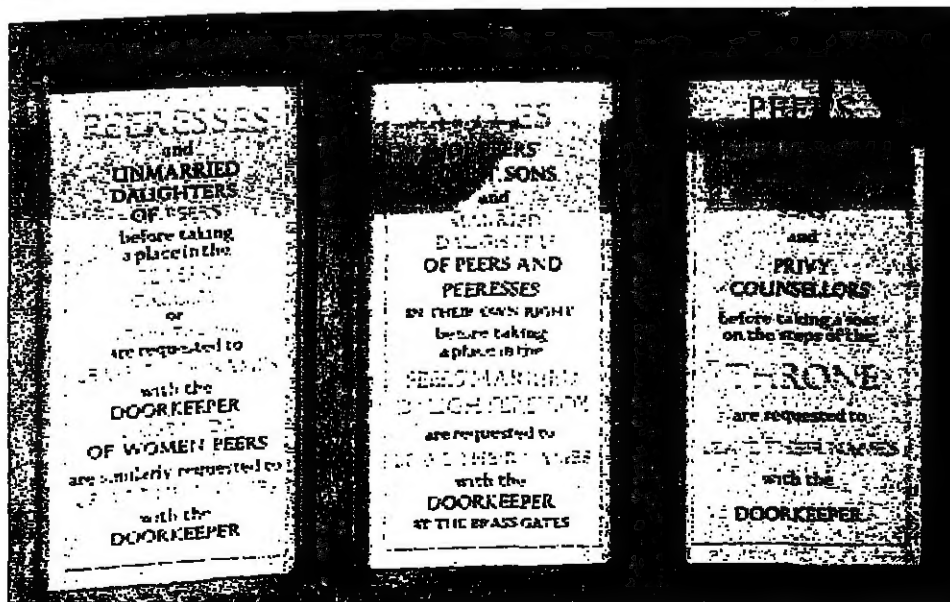
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Protocol and tradition: plaques informing peers and their relatives on how they should deport themselves when attending the Upper Chamber

PETER RIDDELL, PAGE 10; LORDS REFORM PROPOSALS, PAGE 11; TEXT OF SPEECH PAGE 12



# Benefits must be 'deserved'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

A PROFOUND cultural shift in people's attitudes towards welfare is the aim of the Welfare Reform Bill. It will emphasise self-help and forcing people to prove that they "deserve" their state benefits.

The key will be the creation of a "single gateway" to the benefits system, which will require all claimants of working age to attend a mandatory interview with a personal adviser as a condition of receiving welfare. Only those obviously too disabled or ill to work will be exempt. In the same vein, the "all work test", which currently determines entitlement to disability benefits, will be replaced with an "employability test". The idea is to shift the focus from finding out what work people cannot do to what they can do.

The Bill will also contain provisions for a Disability Rights Commission, which will have similar powers to the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission to back legal action supporting the rights of people with disabilities.

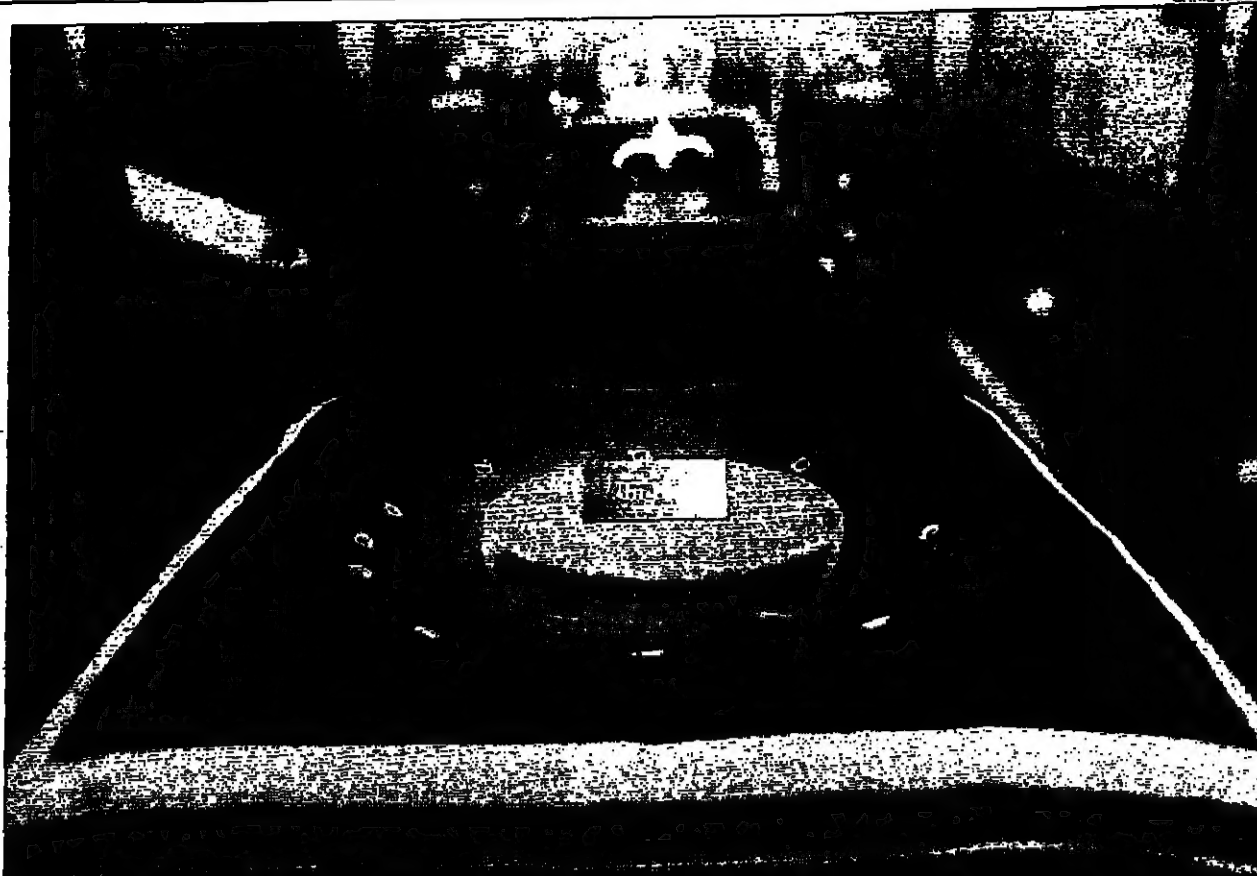
There will be more help for those disabled at birth or at a very early age, severely disabled children and those who

## WELFARE REFORM

need round-the-clock care. The criteria for claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB), for those too sick to work, will be tightened. Under what may turn out to be the Bill's most contentious measure, people who have not paid National Insurance contributions in the past two years will no longer be eligible for IB unless they have been caring for a dependent relative and receiving invalid care allowance.

While welcoming the creation of a Disability Rights Commission, disability campaigners expressed deep reservations about the new IB rules. Lord Ashley of Stoke, co-chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Disability Group, accused the Government of breaking its moral obligation to National Insurance contributors. "This will mean that someone who has paid National Insurance for 20 years but unemployed for more than a year will be ineligible for IB if they become disabled."

The Bill confirmed for the first time that self-employed people and workers with no company pension will be encouraged to take out "stakeholder" retirement plans to top up their state pensions. There will also be new provisions on pension-sharing on divorce.



Situation vacant: the case of the Imperial State Crown, which the Queen wore yesterday, at the Tower of London

## NHS market will be abolished

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE NHS internal market and GP fundholding are to be abolished in the modernisation of the health service.

A Health Bill will sweep away the previous Government's most controversial changes and replace GP fundholders with primary care groups, which can commission services. The Bill also provides for the setting up of primary care trusts, made up of GPs and community nurses, who can provide services. The

## HEALTH

Government aims to end the competition inspired by the internal market, which it says pitted hospitals, doctors and nurses against one another in the fight for funds. GP fundholding, which ministers say has created a two-tier system under which fundholders can secure swifter, better treatment for patients, will also go.

There will be an independent body, the Commission for Health Improvement, already



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

## Car charges to raise billions for London

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

## TRANSPORT

NEW laws allowing motoring charges to be imposed in London will enable the capital's elected mayor to raise up to £1 billion a year.

Legislation to create the new mayoral post and the Greater London Authority will also include powers to charge companies for staff parking spaces. Details of the charges will be left to the new bodies to decide, and the authority will be allowed to keep most of the proceeds to improve transport in the city.

The legislation for London is expected to be followed by legislation for further motoring charges across the country. Ministers have asked local authorities to volunteer for trial projects to test the practicality of charging motorists.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Transport suggested that £600million could be raised annually through road charges across greater London. A further £400 million a

year could be raised by imposing charges of up to £1,000 on each workplace parking space. Resulting improvements in traffic flow could save businesses up to £400 million annually.

A standard motoring charge of £400 a year for those living in Central London has been proposed to ministers, giving car owners a "travel card" that could be used for cars or public transport in a tightly defined area. Transport advisers are split over whether to recommend a simple system of paper permits, displayed in car windshields, or a more sophisticated and expensive electronic tagging scheme under which roadside beacons would "charge" in-car smartcards.

The latter system, which could cost more than £200 million to set up, would operate either through a cordon system, in which drivers are charged as they pass a particular point, or on a continuous charging scheme based on miles driven.

## Mayor to control eight areas of life

BY ROLAND WATSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

## LONDON

THE first directly elected mayor of London will preside over a 25-member assembly and hold sway over eight broad areas of life in the capital.

He or she will also appear at a monthly question time that, depending on the incumbent, could provide a rival attraction to Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

The Greater London Authority Bill will create one of the most powerful political posts outside the Cabinet. The mayor will have direct command over a new body, Transport for London, which will be responsible for co-ordinating the Tube, roads, taxis and river travel as well as influencing the running of commuter

trains. A 23-member Police Authority for London will report to the mayor, rather than the Home Secretary, as will a 17-strong fire and civil emergency authority.

The mayor will be expected to draw up strategies for planning and attracting investment to the capital, and will have responsibility for culture and the arts, public health and the environment.

The mayoral office, together with the authority and assembly, will be funded largely by a grant from central Government. The mayor will have the power to raise extra money through London council taxes, although limited by Westminster.

## Council 'hit squads'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

## TOWN HALLS

MINISTERS will have new powers to send in "hit squads" to deal with failing councils under the Local Government (Best Value and Capping) Bill.

New "external audit and inspection" systems will be set up. The Bill will also scrap compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), under which councils must put out to tender the provision of services such as refuse collection. CCT will be replaced with a "best value"

system, requiring councils to review services every five years, to set performance targets and to publish achievements in the local press.

Ministers will retain powers to limit excessive council tax increases, but will be able to take local circumstances into account. Councils which overspend will be allowed to reduce their budgets over a number of years. Plans for directly elected mayors in England have been delayed.

## Fog of war obscures Lords battlefield

THE House of Lords will never be properly reformed until the party leaders start thinking seriously, rather than merely exchanging vacuous slogans.

William Hague yesterday championed "our independent second chamber", while the Prime Minister attacked the permanent dominance of the Lords by Conservative hereditary peers. Both claims are misleading and ignore the main question — the powers of the House of Lords in relation to the Commons.

Of course, the Lords are not really independent at present. The Upper House was at times a nuisance to the Thatcher Governments. But apart from a few human rights and constitutional issues, this opposition had no impact on the main Thatcherite programmes, such as privatisation and trade union reform. The Lords has an in-built Tory majority which may not be apparent day-to-day among regularly attending peers but can be mobilised on anything important. Labour Governments suffer from defeats in the Lords far more often than Tory ones do.

Tony Blair is wrong to talk about a battle of hereditary peers versus elected MPs. This implies that it would have been all right last week if the Government had been defeated just on the votes of life peers rather than hereditaries. This is nonsense. What was wrong was that the unelected

Peter RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

House (both hereditary and life peers) breached constitutional conventions in overturning the views of the Commons five times.

The Conservatives talk as if a perfect constitutional settlement is being upset by new Labour vandals. In reality, an unsatisfactory second chamber has been kept alive by the self-restraint, until now, of their lordships. Peers have accepted that their job is largely to make up for the inadequacies of the House of Commons in considering legislation, which are now at last being corrected.

The whole balance is now, however, being upset. Mr Hague made much of the creation of a "House of Crooks". Enough of the creations since the general election fit that label for it to stick, even though my hunch is that the Lords will turn out to be quite troublesome for Mr Blair after the hereditaries have been removed. That will underline the unstable nature of the transitional arrangements.

The main battle will now be over that interim phase. Mr Hague argued for delaying legislation on hereditaries until the promised royal commission has reported and people are able to see where the Government is going. That is a canny ap-

proach, though Mr Hague will find it hard to escape being depicted as defender of the hereditaries.

Mr Blair repeated his pledge that no single party would have an overall majority in the reformed Upper House, that a strong independent crossbench element would be preserved and that the Prime Minister would relinquish his present sole right to recommend life peers. These are significant safeguards. But there is still uncertainty over timing.

Paddy Ashdown urged the Government to make early progress on setting out their plans and a short timetable, with the royal commission reporting "not later than the spring of 2000".

Mr Blair did announce that Labour would be setting out, as a submission to the commission, "what the final stage of reform should look like" (as it did to the Neill committee on party funding).

However, the Government seems to be taking rather a dilatory attitude to the pace of reform. The signs are that nothing may happen until the new year. This is partly to ensure that the row over the Lords does not derail the rest of a crowded legislative programme. But the sooner the Government declares its thinking on the long-term future of the second chamber, the better its chance of succeeding where its predecessors have failed over the past century.

## Pilot lands the big one



## World Rally victory on Michelin

Michelin Pilot Tommi Makinen in his Mitsubishi clinched the 1998 World Rally Championship title on the Network Q Rally of Great Britain. But the ultimate winner is you the motorist. Pilots tested to the limits in motorsport ensure you get tyres that excel on the road. Fit the tyres fit for the World Rally Champions - Michelin Pilot Sport.



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هكذا من الأصل







# Asylum-seekers lose benefits to save £250m

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

## IMMIGRATION

ASYLUM-SEEKERS are to lose their right to social security benefits under reforms of an immigration system overwhelmed by economic migrants.

The Government is seeking to cut by half the estimated £500 million asylum-seekers cost each year and to let the world know that Britain is no longer an attractive destination for economic migrants, rather than genuine refugees.

Ministers have described the existing immigration system as a shambles and say that because of the backlog 110,000 refugees whose claims have been rejected would have to be removed by 2002. Last year there were 32,500 asylum applicants and the figure is expected to be 33,000 this year; there were 4,000 in 1993.

A new national agency is to be established to provide support for asylum-seekers among other services. It will provide vouchers to be exchanged in shops for food and clothing. They are to be dis-

persed around the country in bed and breakfast accommodation, hostels and disused council housing that they will have to take. The aim is to ease the burden on London boroughs such as Lambeth and Brent.

To speed up the handling of appeals — there is a backlog of 23,000 — the existing two-tier system is to be replaced with a single mechanism headed by a High Court or circuit judge. Immigration advisers are to be regulated to end abuses that have led to people from the ethnic minority communities paying substantial amounts for bad advice. There have also been reports of unqualified advisers being involved in the provision of false passports and urging people to make up false stories about persecution.

Nick Hardwick, of the Refugee Council, said the Government had chosen a high risk strategy that risked replacing one shambles with another.

The Medical Foundation for



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

the Care of Victims of Torture gave warning that torture survivors could be deprived of medical treatment because of the Government's plans. The foundation, which treats more than 50 refugees a day at its centre in North London, fears that if they are sent to far-off locations they will no longer have access to appropriate care or to community groups and assistance bodies concentrated in the London area.

Helen Bamber, the foundation's director, denounced the

voucher scheme for asylum-seekers' benefits as "dehumanising", as it would place refugees in a position of absolute dependency and deny them the opportunity to pay for a bus fare, a public lavatory or a treat for a child. "No cash and less dignity is the Government's new covenant with those seeking protection in Britain from human rights abuses abroad," she said.

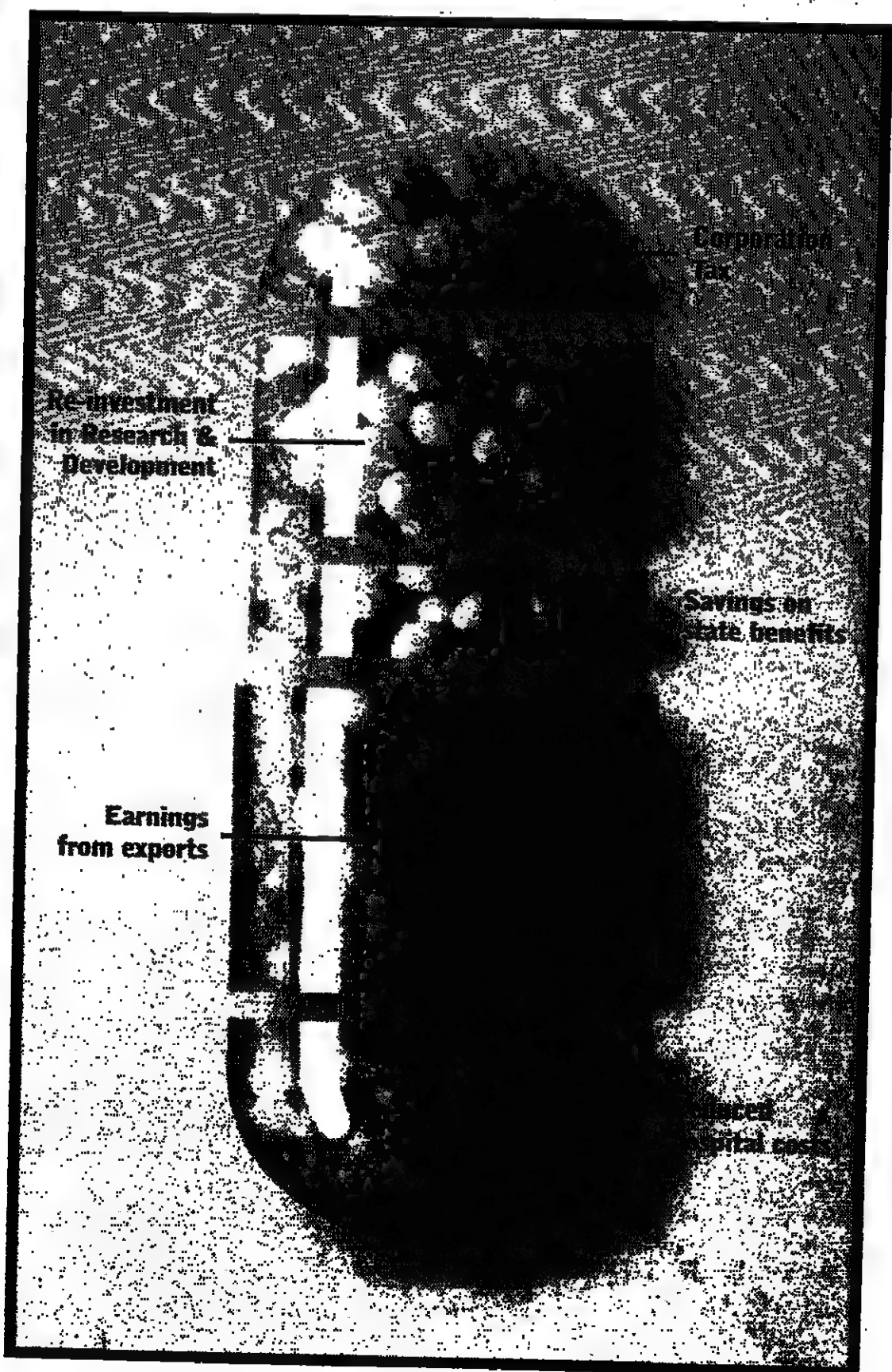
Imam Sajid, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, welcomed the plans. "They will bring major change and we anticipate that they will make entry more difficult for those whose claims are not credible. Tightening up controls on unscrupulous immigration advisers will be good for race relations."

Local authorities which take the burden of dealing with asylum-seekers welcomed moves to disperse applicants. Chris Lean, of Dover District Council, said the town's annual bill for housing 400 asylum-seekers was £70,000, although Kent County Council was paying for education and other services.



These eastern European refugees, waiting to enter Britain at Calais, decided not to try after others had been turned away

# Sickness Benefit.



This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines — about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick.

It would be the country.  
The Association of the  
British Pharmaceutical Industry  
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY



TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

## 'Education is Government's top priority'

This is an edited text of the Queen's Speech to Parliament yesterday.

MY LORDS and Members of the House of Commons, this is my Government's second legislative programme. Like the first, it will focus upon the modernisation of the country. My Government will continue with economic policies designed to build stability for the long term, making the United Kingdom well placed not just to weather the international financial storms but to emerge stronger from them.

The central economic objectives of my Government are high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

My Government believes the decision to give the Bank of England the power to set interest rates has been crucial to the meeting of its inflation target. Education remains my Government's top priority. A consultation paper will be brought forward on the most far-reaching reforms of the teaching profession in 50 years to enhance the status of teachers and reward high performance.

My Government will continue to build a modern National Health Service. A Bill will be introduced to replace the NHS internal market which put hospitals, doctors and nurses in competition with each other. In its place will be decentralised arrangements based on partnership, quality and efficiency.

My Government will continue to tackle crime and its causes. A Bill will be introduced to modernise the youth courts and to give greater protection for vulnerable witnesses in criminal cases. My Government will introduce legislation to modernise legal aid to make the system fairer and more cost effective.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, my Government has made clear its determination to modernise the welfare state. A Bill will be introduced giving greater help to those in need by reforming benefits for people with long-term illness or disabilities, and modernising benefits for widows.

My Government will continue to work in partnership with business, and welcome the improved relations between business and trade unions. They will bring forward measures to establish

a balance of rights and responsibilities for employers and employees.

My Government have fulfilled their commitment to establish a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue to work towards the full implementation of the Belfast Agreement.

Legislation will be introduced to create a new Great

er London authority made up of a directly-elected mayor and a separately elected assembly. There will be a range of powers, including new powers to tackle road congestion and improve public transport. Regional development agencies will be established in England, decentralising decision-making to the English regions.

A Bill will be introduced to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. It will be the first stage in a process of reform to make the House of Lords more democratic and representative. My Government will publish a White Paper setting out arrangements for a new system of appointments of life peers and establish a Royal Commission to review further changes.

My Government propose that a draft Freedom of Information Bill be given pre-legislative scrutiny.

My Government are committed to tackling global poverty and promoting sustainable development. My Government will play a leading role in preparing the European Union for the historic challenge of enlargement. In particular, they will work to secure reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and Structural and Cohesion Funds.

My Government will ensure strong arrangements for defence based on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and promote peace and security, especially in the Middle East and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will also actively pursue a resolution to the problem in Kosovo. My Government remain committed to the effective promotion of human rights worldwide.

My Government see this as a substantial set of measures seeking to meet the important and difficult challenges before us.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons: I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

'A Bill will remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote'

'Economic policies will build stability for the long term'

DELAY TO FINANCIAL SERVICES REFORM: BUSINESS, PAGE 27



AY NOVEMBER 25 1998



...had been turned away

Education is  
Government's  
top priority

# IBM announces {a Web server}

that can handle 20 million transactions a day.

Can support up to 50,000 users.

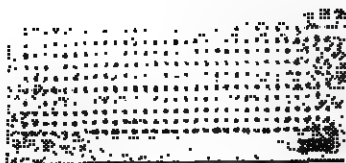
Can deliver 99.999% availability.\*

And is a hacker's worst nightmare.

IBM



## Surprise, it's your IBM S/390 enterprise server.



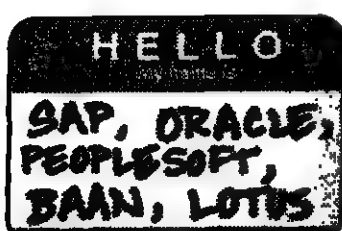
After three decades of transformation, the IBM S/390 server sets the standard for e-business transaction serving.

e-business isn't just about having a Web site. It's far beyond that. e-business is about conducting huge amounts of electronic transactions between you, your customers, your suppliers – everyone. So the large enterprise server you bought a while back has become the best Web server available.

Suddenly, all those issues which led to your original S/390 decision are at play on a scale larger than ever envisioned. Which means your S/390 server wasn't as much a hardware purchase as it was a strategic choice.

Placing your enterprise data on your S/390 server means that information doesn't need to be replicated and can always be up-to-date.

As it stands, you have a Web server with the security and availability you'll need in the next century: your S/390.



IBM is working with hundreds of developers to Web-enable your S/390. To date, 1,700 new or modernised Web applications are available, with close to a thousand new ones on the way.

**IBM S/390. Instant WEB server.** If you think about it, you already have an enormous wealth of data on your S/390. By transforming their own S/390 enterprise server, many e-businesses have found themselves able to leverage and extend their existing system and the data that already resides there.

Take Volvo, for example. They Web-enabled an S/390 to access corporate data, thereby integrating delivery schedules, as well as spare parts and technical information for dealers. The results are greatly improved customer service and higher profit.

The Web conversion happens at the software level and involves minimum hassle. In fact, you can create a secure, 24-hour front door to your business without needing to cobble together additional servers and software.

Customers can track orders and check the status of their accounts online.

Partners can collaborate with you at all hours to wring time out of the production cycle.

Suppliers can post to your payment systems in real time.



A network based on multiple servers can be open to multiple problems. And enormous complexity equals enormous costs.

**Run a data mine, not a server farm.** An infrastructure built on multiple servers can be open to multiple management problems. Just deploying a new major application requires a visit to each and every server. And in the environment of enterprise computing, it's a mathematical fact that enormous complexity equals enormous costs (no wonder Wachovia Bank N.A. chose to eliminate 90% of the office automation servers in their information services department through an S/390 consolidation).

With your S/390 only a single copy of a program needs to be changed on the server in order, for example, to improve the interface of your Web site, deploy a new ERP program or upgrade your e-mail capabilities.

Instead of putting critical business applications at the fingertips of the users who need them, PC, and even many UNIX servers, create islands of information that can be nearly impossible to keep up-to-date.

Your bulletproof S/390, on the other hand, is a network of one, and has the ability to extract insight from mountains of information and reveal relationships and trends that were previously invisible.



The IBM S/390 hums along with no more than five minutes of planned or unplanned downtime. A year.

**24/7/365 isn't a locker combination.** The hottest topics in computing today are scalability, security, and most of all, availability – issues that were once talked about primarily at the mainframe level.

Now server companies are claiming mainframe attributes for their UNIX® and PC servers (in fact, chances are that at least one of your PC or UNIX servers is down right now). These distributed servers are not an S/390 enterprise server and never will be. Not alone, not clustered together. And in an e-business environment, deploying a clutch of servers that can't deliver 24 x 7 availability is like locking customers out of the store. Customers who can go to a competitor's site with two clicks of the mouse. However, with the latest generation of S/390 Parallel Sysplex® technology, you are guaranteed the closest thing to continuous computing, with a design point of 99.999% availability.

As a Web server, it's capable of handling up to 400,000,000 hits or 20,000,000 transactions a day, or up to 50,000 users simultaneously.



By year's end, 2,300 organisations will have Web-enabled large enterprise servers. By the end of the decade, more than 10,000 will be operational.

**Lower costs.** The transactional costs of e-business can be a fraction of those of traditional commerce. You already know that.

But costs can still vary wildly depending on what hardware strategy you use. As their Web volume grows and companies use the network to perform vital tasks like managing their supply chains or implementing customer service apps, the benefits of one scalable enterprise server over dozens or even hundreds of smaller servers become apparent.

An International Technology Group<sup>1</sup> survey found that with true enterprise servers, the average cost-per-use in transaction processing was 76% lower than for centralised UNIX servers.

That's a staggering difference.

With your S/390 server, you get what is described by industry consultants as the lowest cost-per-user computing environment in the industry.

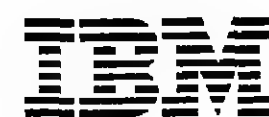
**So where do you go from here?** With whom do you talk with to transform your S/390 into your enterprise Web server?

IBM can provide a way to get your existing set of servers consolidated and to train your staff to manage and continue the process. Our entire organisation is ready to help your company run more efficiently, more quickly and more profitably.

To learn how the S/390 is the defining standard in enterprise computing, type in [www.ibm.com/s390/web](http://www.ibm.com/s390/web)

<sup>1</sup>These figures were achieved using S/390's unique Parallel Sysplex clustering technology. 10 November, 1997. Source: Cost Implications of Platform Choices Management Brief, 1997 IBM and noted IBM product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries.





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The most powerful, secure, and scalable  
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# 'Slave hotel' of Saudi prince angers Egypt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
MIDDLE EAST  
CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS of outrageous behaviour towards servants and Egyptians by a big-spending Saudi prince and his foreign bodyguards living in a Cairo hotel are threatening a diplomatic crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The dispute is one of several in recent years since Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz — one of six full brothers of the ailing Saudi monarch, King Fahd — took up residence in the Ramesses Hilton. It came to light this week when two servants were seriously injured after escaping by lowering themselves from a window on the 29th floor of the 36-storey hotel overlooking the Nile.

Ahmed Nureddin Ahmed, a butler, and Ahmed Abdel-Satar, a cook, told police that the 55-year-old prince had locked them in a room after they complained of mistreatment. They said they had not been paid for five months and that other servants were still locked up on the 28th and 29th floors of the hotel, where the Saudi entourage has been in



Prince Turki: escaping servants injured

costly sole residence for many years. According to hotel employees and police sources from the nearby Bulaq district — one of Cairo's notorious inner-city slums — the two were hurt when they jumped to a balcony on the 24th floor.

An Egyptian journalist said that he and other guests were prevented from getting to the floors by a large squad of private bodyguards led by an ex-member of the French Foreign Legion. In the past, complaints of thuggish behaviour by bodyguards of visiting Saudi royalty have frequently

been hushed up by the Cairo authorities to avoid embarrassing publicity. This time, 27 members of the Egyptian parliament are pressing the Government to explain how the Prince was able to keep his servants locked in the hotel with impunity.

Led by the ruling party deputy, Yehya Shaalan, the MPs have demanded a public debate in the People's Assembly concerning the fate of nine Egyptian servants who, it is claimed, have been locked up for several months.

Relatives of the servants have also filed requests with the public prosecutor's office demanding their release. Nabih al-Wahsh, a lawyer, added to the scandal by asking a Cairo court to order ministers to expel the Prince from Egypt.

According to diplomats, he has lived in the country for many years, since falling out with his brothers over his marriage to a Saudi woman of Moroccan origin. At the time, he had amassed a large fortune in his role as Deputy Defence Minister.

Stories of profligate spending dogged the family and forced him to seek exile in Egypt.



Victory role: the pilot celebrates after the first Palestinian Airlines aircraft landed yesterday at the new Gaza International Airport

## State hopes soar as Gaza opens airport

Rafah, Gaza Strip: Palestinians hailed their first airport, inaugurated yesterday, as a symbol of statehood and a sign that the peace process with Israel was moving forward.

Crowds of men, women and children, many of whom had never seen an aircraft on the ground, cheered,

danced and sang as nine aircraft flew in from Arab states and Europe to a red-carpet welcome from Yasser Arafat, the beaming Palestinian leader. "God willing, aeroplanes will fly from this airport carrying pilgrims to Jerusalem," Mr Arafat said in the airport VIP lounge, the roof of which is

topped with a golden orb shaped in the style of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Holy City.

Until now, he has had to be driven to El Arish in Egypt to fly abroad since his arrival in Gaza in 1994 after the start of limited Palestinian self-rule. The opening of the airport, built

with \$250 million (£150 million) in deferred loans, was stalled for 20 months in the freeze that had beset Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. An agreement allowing it to operate was signed last Friday under the Wye interim peace deal, which the two sides negotiated last month. (Reuters)

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## Iraqi groups plead for funds to fight Saddam

IRAQI opposition leaders yesterday urged Martin Indyk, the US Assistant Secretary of State, to back American promises of support with substantial political and material backing for their fight to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

At a meeting in the American Embassy in London, Mr Indyk met the 16 leaders of the various London-based opposition groups who had talks with Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office Minister, on Monday.

The meeting came as Iraq accused America and its allies of trying to split the country through military action and sanctions. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, told the opening of a poetry festival in Baghdad: "The tyrants and the evil of the world, America and the Zionists, and whoever is serving their interests and schemes today seek — as they did in the past and failed — to humiliate Iraq and bring it to its knees by threatening destruction." But he added: "They have forgotten that they have tried and failed before and they will fail this time also."

Iraqi newspapers also called the United States and Britain "uncivilised and immoral" for trying to rally Iraqi dissidents to oust Saddam, *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper said. America and Britain had begun promoting their "evil ideas" of interfering in the nation's internal affairs after they had failed to destroy Iraq.

"What kind of morality have the ruling authorities reached in the two imperialist states? What kind of naive thinking do those gullible and deluded people have in understanding the reality of the Iraqis and the determination of its leaders?" the paper asked.

The Americans have promised some \$97 million (£60

American official hosts talks with exile factions in London, reports Michael Binyon

million) in aid to opposition groups, but have made no specific pledges of arms supplies. Britain has flatly refused to discuss weapons deliveries. At their meeting on Monday, Mr Fatchett advised them to outline to Mr Indyk what other support the West could give — including the setting-up of a broadcasting station.

Iraqi papers yesterday did not comment on the assassination attempt on Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council. He escaped death in the Shia Muslim stronghold of Karbala in southern Iraq when two grenades were hurled as he stepped from his car to represent Saddam at a religious ceremony on Sunday. Instead, the press vehemently attacked



Indyk: met 16 leaders at the American Embassy

Richard Butler, the chief United Nations weapons inspector. "What this accused devil wants is unequivocally what the United States wants. This is why he is like an enraged bull, like a Satan instilling evil in every crisis provoked by America against Iraq," the newspaper said.

Russia yesterday also attacked the meeting of opposition groups with British and American officials. The Foreign Ministry yesterday regretted that "certain countries, including Britain, have called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime". It said: "Only the Iraqi people must decide problems with their Government."

Iraq announced yesterday that Nizar Hamdoun, its long-serving Ambassador to the United Nations, is to be replaced. His place will be taken by Saeed Hasan.

The move is part of a shake-up of 25 senior Iraqi representatives overseas, which also sees the replacement of Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother — who was earlier recalled as representative to the UN in Geneva — by a former Baghdad University Dean of Law, Nabil Nejm, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Arab League, has been replaced by a former chairman of the Iraqi parliament's legal committee.

Saddam's half-brother, who was rumoured to be on the point of defection, has been granted a "courtesy extension" to stay in Switzerland until the end of the month, after the recent death of his wife. Mr Hamdoun, formerly an ambassador to Washington, was one of the most popular and influential Iraqi envoys overseas. He has shown consistent loyalty to Saddam, but his easy manner and Western ways may have made him suspect in the leader's eyes.

## Disillusion grows over South Korea's 'sunshine policy'

FROM DAVID WATTS  
IN SEOUL



President Kim: détente with North is under fire

THE more South Korea tries to woo the Communist North the less it gets in return. Hardliners in both Seoul and Pyongyang are making the "sunshine policy" of Kim Dae Jung, the South's President, hard to justify.

The South Korean and American military commands are reportedly updating Plan 5027 — the swift occupation of the North that would follow any attack on the South which includes the possible use of nuclear weapons. A Seoul newspaper claimed yesterday that Pyongyang had already tested a trigger for a nuclear bomb.

Just as Iraq plays hard to get with United Nations access to its weapons programme, so North Korea is now denying American access to what is suspected to be a new nuclear site.

Diplomats in Seoul say that the US is in a dilemma over how to handle this Iraq of the Orient.

James Lilley, formerly the US Ambassador to Seoul, said: "It's absolute blackmail. Clinton has dug himself into a hole on this one. Every time we make a demand it's \$300 million (£184 million) for this or 300,000 tons of grain for that. It's time the US got out of the way and left policy to the South Koreans. They know how to handle them."

Mr Lilley argues that the Agreed Framework is a failure. Under the deal, the US will pay up to \$4.5 billion, Japan \$1 billion and South Korea will fund 70 per cent of two light-water nuclear reactors promised to the North for electricity generation in return for an end to its nuclear pro-

gramme. Increasingly, South Korean academics outside the Government agree with Mr Lilley and say that President Kim must draw the line.

The South Korean leader is trying to bring change to the North through business, investment and tourism. Nothing could better illustrate the contradictions of the "sunshine policy" than an incident last week when a South Korean cruise liner made the first tourist visit to a North Korean port. At almost exactly the same time that it was docking, with hundreds of tourists bringing cash to the east coast of North Korea, a Communist spy boat was racing through South Korean waters on the west of the peninsula.

Whether it was intending to drop off or pick up an agent is unclear but the South Korean military failed to spot it and is once again in hot water.

But a former government official said: "While our tourists are going up there, they are developing rockets and selling weapons. The sunshine policy is inherently limited in dealing with the North."

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# Marbles lose out to God and mammon in great Greek debate

AS THE Prince of Wales discovered to his annoyance during his visit to Greece this week, few local politicians can resist the opportunity to make an impassioned public appeal for the return of the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum.

Dig a little deeper, however, and the issue, which at times seems to dominate Anglo-Greek affairs, hardly raises an eyebrow among ordinary Greeks, who feel a far greater affinity with their Byzantine heritage than with ancient Greece.

For some time now, politics and its nationalist symbols have been losing their attraction for the Greeks.

Austerity, uncertainty over the euro, and the chances of being able to buy a new car next year and get that summer home fixed up all now weigh more on the public consciousness. Ancient Greece, or the modern conception of it, understanding

The heritage issue so dear to politicians leaves voters cold, writes John Carr from Athens

ably looms large in the modern Greeks' sense of themselves. Throughout this century, however, the classical past has been pressed into service as a flagwaiver.

Its latest function is that of a boost for politicians thirsty for public applause. Despite polite yet firm rebuffs from Tony Blair and Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, Athens repeats its demand time and again. Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister for Culture, with an unerring eye for publicity, has made the Marbles the central theme of an irredentist foreign policy in which diplomatic conventions and niceties, not to mention the Foreign Ministry itself, are brushed aside. The conserva-

tive opposition party, New Democracy, has avoided sticking its neck out. Given the political capital to be made, however, that stance could soon end. Hours before the Prince of Wales bent his ear to Mr Venizelos's latest appeal, the conservative and highly popular Mayor of Athens, Dimitris Avramopoulos, reinforced the call.

There is no logical reason, the official Greek argument runs, why the Marbles should not be returned to their homeland, there to be exhibited and viewed as an inalienable part of Greece's past. Diplomatic battle was first joined in 1982 by the late actress, Melina Mercouri, the

Minister for Culture in the country's first Socialist Cabinet. Despite her propagandist talents, the Greek case was weakened from the beginning by its political angle. Any mention of the Greek relics in the Louvre, for example, was avoided so as not to embarrass the French Socialist Government. The Greek stand was then hastily modified to emphasise that the Marbles in the British Museum are a missing part of the unified Parthenon sculptures.

This abstract argument leaves large segments of the Greek public cold. There is a sense of resentment about having to beg for anything at all, combined with an aversion to things classical that is traceable to the compulsory teaching of classical Greek in schools until the mid-1980s. Many, if not most, Greeks recall the ordeal of memorising Homer and Xeno-

phon with a shudder. The Parthenon is visible from hundreds of flats, offices and hotel rooms and familiarity may have bred contempt. I was recently told of a taxi driver who, while near the Acropolis, pointed to the hill and boasted to his passenger that in half a century of being a cabbie he had "never once set foot on that thing".

Unwilling to be taken for tourists, most Greeks only visit the Acropolis on school trips. It is no accident that it is Greece's foreign community, including a good many Britons, that has been petitioning for the Marbles' return.

Greece's most popular figure is Archbishop Christodoulos, head of the National Orthodox Church, the sole remaining symbol of the pomp and spirituality of the Byzantine Empire. This is no coincidence. Byzantium, not the Athens of Peri-

cles, is the cultural, political and administrative forerunner of modern Greece.

The break in the nation's historical continuity, somewhere around the 3rd century, was a sharp one. The result is a confusion over identity. Greek school texts, while rhapsodising about the battle of Marathon, go on to gloss over the fact that the early Byzantine emperors, who equated Ancient Greece with pagan unbelief, executed philosophers, abolished the Olympic Games, and converted the Parthenon into a church.

Mr Venizelos, according to most accounts, really believes in his mission. What remains unclear is how hard the Greek Government is willing to press its demand for the Elgin Marbles while an indifferent public looks on.

Leading article, page 23

## Bishop in business scandal resigns

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A GREEK Cypriot bishop at the centre of numerous fraud allegations involving spectacular amounts of money in several countries, including Britain, has been forced to resign by the island's Orthodox Church.

Bishop Chrysanthos of Limassol escaped the humiliation of being defrocked, but was suspended for two years.

His business dealings have made local headlines for months, damaging the reputation of the Church, which has also been rocked by a series of sex scandals.

A Limassol priest was defrocked last month after abandoning his wife and four children to elope with a Roman Catholic striptease artist.

Cypriot police are also investigating another priest, who was allegedly blackmailed into drug dealing after being photographed naked with a transvestite.

The activities of Bishop Chrysanthos first came under the spotlight in the summer, when he was named by four people arrested in Britain in connection with an alleged £2 million fraud. Two Scottish Yard detectives spent several weeks in Cyprus.

The bishop denies the accusations and insists he has stepped down only for the good of the Church.

## Mossad agent quits in latest spying fiasco

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

A SENIOR official of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, has reportedly resigned after the third bungled spy operation in a year — the arrest of two agents in Cyprus.

The Israeli Hebrew daily newspaper, *Haaretz*, reported yesterday that the Mossad chief, Ephraim Halevy, had accepted the resignation of the operations chief, who is known publicly only as "Y".

"Before it was determined who was responsible for the foul-up, Y took ministerial responsibility upon himself for it," the paper said.

The two agents were caught with tape recordings of police conversations and surveillance devices near an army base on the Mediterranean island earlier this month.

They were charged with spying in a court in Larnaca last Friday. Their request for bail was denied and they were ordered to stand trial on December 8.

The agents, Udi Hargov, 27, and Yigal Danary, 47, who were caught in the coastal village of Zyia, have also been charged with illegal posses-

sion of wireless equipment for espionage use and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The two have claimed they are innocent, but their arrest has soured relations between Cyprus and Israel and came only days after President Weizman ended the first official visit to the Mediterranean island by an Israeli head of state.

Cyprus has accused the two of operating with a "specific intelligence institute whose headquarters is in Tel Aviv". Police on the island have also said the two were spying on behalf of Turkey, which has a defence pact with Israel.

The Israeli Government has not acknowledged publicly that the two are Mossad agents, saying only that they did not spy on behalf of Turkey and were not trying to hurt Cypriot interests.

The operations chief also offered his resignation earlier this year after Swiss police arrested five Mossad agents for allegedly spying in a residential area of Bern. A former Mossad chief, Danny Yatom, resigned in February after a

failed attempt to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic group, in Jordan.

The incident led to a bitter attack on Israel by King Hussein of Jordan, regarded as the closest Arab ally of the Jewish State, but Y was apparently not involved in that operation.

While Mossad has recently fallen from glory, its reputation remained unscathed after one of Israel's greatest spying scandals — the arrest in 1985 of Jonathan Pollard.

An American Jew employed in US Navy Intelligence, Mr Pollard spied for Israel under a special unit of the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

There was much debate in Israel after the disclosure that such a unit was engaged in espionage and not subject to Mossad supervision.

The Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has recently attempted to secure Mr Pollard's release. But the affair has left American intelligence agencies distrustful of their counterparts in the Jewish state.



Ephraim Halevy, head of Mossad, who is reported to have accepted the resignation of his operations chief, known as "Y", after two agents were arrested in Cyprus

## Hopes of Cyprus missile deal rise

WESTERN hopes are rising of a deal to halt the deployment of Russian missiles in Cyprus and the threatened Turkish military retaliation (Michael Binyon writes).

President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday had talks in London with Sir David Hannay, the European Union special representative, before going to Athens, where he is likely to face pressure to postpone or cancel the missile deployment on the Greek side of the divided island.

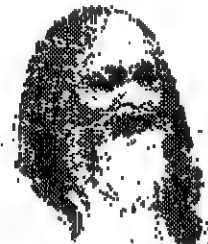
Any deal would be based on a moratorium on military flights over Cyprus. This could be used as a pretext by the Cyprus Government to declare that the missiles were no longer needed. Sir David yesterday described his talks with Mr Clerides as positive, but refused to give any details.

He recently held talks in Ankara, which sources suggested also went well.

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# Funeral bares desperation in Russia's soul

THE funeral yesterday of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered reformist Duma deputy, has provoked an outbreak of mass soul-searching in Russia by politicians and the electorate.

As leading democrats gathered in the Marble Hall of the Museum of Ethnography in St Petersburg to pay their respects before the burial at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, they were united both by their grief and by their desire to turn Mrs Starovoitova's death into something positive for Russia.

The extent of the country's lawlessness and corruption has been exposed beyond doubt and there is a pervasive feeling that this assassination is the last straw for those already sickened by the perceived moral decline since the end of the Soviet era. An editorial in *Izvestia* stated: "Evil fears nothing today because it knows that it will not be punished. The proof is in the numerous high-profile crimes that have never been solved, in the widespread embezzlement and bribe-taking by govern-

**The murder of a Duma reformer has united the nation, writes Anna Blundy**

ment officials (federal and local), in the unprecedented theft by bankers who have instantly robbed hundreds of thousands of their clients, and finally in the rise of fascism in Russia."

Mrs Starovoitova's death, which Dmitri Yakushkin, Boris Yeltsin's press secretary, has said is partly to blame for the President's continuing hospital treatment for pneumonia, is thought to have been linked to her intention to run for the governorship of the Leningrad region. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultra-nationalist whom Mrs Starovoitova hoped to beat in those elections, told the RIA news agency: "There is a feeling someone is clearing space ahead of the St Petersburg polls."

Certainly the killing is seen as an attack on the movement for democracy and reform. "Do they want to stop us? Do they want to scare us?" asked Anatoli Chubais, one of the leading architects of Russian reform, after the funeral.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Our Home is Russia party, spoke at the funeral, saying that Russia's democratic forces should unite against the country's communists and fascists.

However, neither he nor Mr Chubais is free from the accusations of corruption that saturate Russian politics. Both are apparently included in the CIA report, claiming to represent conclusive evidence of corruption, that was submitted to the office of Al Gore, the American Vice-President, in 1995.

Mr Yeltsin himself, whose anti-corruption ticket won him the presidency, has also been the subject of claims of illegal activity. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist at the forefront of the failed campaign to impeach the President and to have him retired on health grounds, has produced documents seeming to give President Yeltsin the right to control 26 per cent of shares in OKT, a television company owned by Boris Berezovsky, the businessman.

The President's administration denies any wrongdoing on the part of Mr Yeltsin and the scheme has been widely dismissed as something cooked up by Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard.

Mr Berezovsky is at the centre of a separate scandal precipitated by his claims that the Federal Security Service (FSB) had issued orders to kill him. President Yeltsin has ordered an investigation into corruption in the FSB after this and other reports of murder plots, kidnappings, extortion and infiltration by organised crime groups.

Mr Berezovsky's claims, backed up by several FSB officers, have been flatly denied by Vladimir Putin, the organisation's director and the man at the head of the Starovoitova investigation, who is threatening to sue for libel.

Mr Berezovsky has been active in the recent campaign against anti-Semitism by the Communist Party, brought to the fore by the rampantly anti-Semitic and unchallenged remarks of a leading Communist, General Albert Makashov. The increasingly blatant xenophobia of the Communists prompted *Izvestia* magazine to feature a photograph of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, on its cover with a Hitler-style moustache scrawled over his top lip. Mr Zyuganov, whose party is also

in a dispute with Russia's media, demanding censorship, is threatening legal action against the magazine.

The Communists and their nationalist allies have been publicly blamed for the death of Mrs Starovoitova, but Mr Zyuganov believes that the Russian experiment with democracy is the real culprit.

He says that the changes in Russia since the Soviet era have led to "new attacks on state security and interior agencies by liberal radicals".

Few Russians nowadays have any faith in the integrity of their politicians or businessmen. Claims by Grigori Yavlinsky, a liberal radical and Ya-

blo party presidential candidate, of corruption in the Government and allegations that many government positions have been bought for bribes are supported by 63 per cent of Muscovites.

Political target: Shots were fired at the home of a politician in St Petersburg, the Interfax news agency said. The police did not say if the incident was connected to the murder of Mrs Starovoitova.

The shots were fired at the windows of an apartment belonging to Konstantin Serov, 32, who is standing for re-election to the St Petersburg assembly. No one was hurt. (AFP)



Mourners pay their last respects to Galina Starovoitova in St Petersburg yesterday. Her body was later buried at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery



Boris Nemtsov, former Deputy Prime Minister, with Mrs Starovoitova's mother, Rimza, at the funeral

## EU threatens trade war over Kurd leader

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union yesterday stepped belatedly into the crisis between Turkey and Italy over Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, to warn Ankara that it would face sanctions if it enforced a boycott of Italian goods.

Jacques Santer, President of

the European Commission, said any Turkish embargo against Italy over its refusal to extradite Mr Ocalan would breach agreements between the EU and Ankara and lead to retaliation.

Mr Santer's words were warmly received by Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister. The Turkish authorities have banned the purchase

of Italian goods for public buildings and threatened further sanctions to demonstrate anger over Italy's refusal to extradite the founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), who applied for political asylum after being detained in Rome on November 14. Italian judges ruled that Mr Ocalan, who is deemed by Ankara to be a terrorist respon-

sible for the deaths of thousands, could not be sent to a country where he would face the death penalty.

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday reiterated on his insistence that Mr Ocalan be extradited to Turkey and said he might instead be extradited to Germany or sent to a third country. (AFP)

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Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday reiterated on his insistence that Mr Ocalan be extradited to Turkey and said he might instead be extradited to Germany or sent to a third country. (AFP)



Carlos: vigorous stream of self-publicity

## Jackal's jail fast ends 'by order'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

CARLOS the Jackal, the jailed terrorist who has ended a hunger strike after 20 days, insisted yesterday that he was stopping his protest because he was ordered to by a radical Palestinian leader — and not just because he was hungry.

On November 3 Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, announced that he was refusing to eat in protest at ill-treatment by guards. Prison doctors accused the convicted guerrilla of faking the hunger strike.

Carlos, 49, became thinner, but remained as self-inflated as ever. Nine days into the protest he began drinking water, and although his lawyers and family claimed he was "near death" he kept up a vigorous stream of self-publicity from his cell at La Santé prison in Paris.

He announced on Monday night that he was ending his action after receiving a letter from Georges Habash, the head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Carlos's decision to begin eating again coincided with a marked waning of interest in his protest in the French media.

The letter from Mr Habash read: "I shake your hands, full of the hope that you will remain a solid international militant... this requires that you stay alive and in good health to be able to continue the fight for the noble cause that is ours. It is unacceptable for an activist such as you to give up and let himself die."

Carlos's lawyer said that his client had "agreed to the request of Mr Habash, which he considered an order".

But it appears more likely that he decided to end his fast with a face-saving excuse because he was no longer getting the attention — and food — he desired.

He is serving a life sentence for killing two French agents, and is under investigation for four more terrorist attacks.

## Macedonia force to watch over monitors in Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER IN SKOPJE

INTERNATIONAL monitors negotiated the release of a Serb policeman captured by the Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday as Nato put the finishing touches to plans for a 1,800-strong "extraction force" in neighbouring Macedonia. It is designed to spring into action were a monitor to be taken hostage in the conflict.

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and General Wesley Clarke, the Supreme Commander, will fly to Kumanovo in northeast Macedonia tomorrow to open the Kosovo Verification Command Centre, a military airbase where information from Nato spyplanes over Kosovo will be correlated with that gathered by monitors in the province.

By early next year there should be nearly 2,000 monitors in Kosovo — but in a conflict that most diplomats fear will worsen next spring, there is a good chance that the observers will make tempting targets for Albanians and Serbs.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is running the mission to verify the tenuous ceasefire, gives the monitors five days of training in the ski resort of Brezovica, on the Kosovo side of the Macedonian border. Advice includes what to do if taken hostage.

But ultimately, the verifiers' lives will depend on the ability of the French-led extraction force to leaping the mountain-

ous border and drop commandos from helicopters. The OSCE training on Mount Brezovica is being led by Italians. "We had these kind of problems already in Bosnia, and I found this to be the best kind of reaction: no reaction at all," David Pignatelli, a police inspector, advised his latest OSCE group. "The most important thing is to be as flat as possible; very, very neutral."

Hundreds of Albanians and Serbs have been abducted and many tortured and killed. Yesterday, Goran Zhilic, a policeman, was handed over to international monitors near the village of Lapastica, 30 miles north of Pristina — an act of charity in a Balkan saga of vengeance.

Tim Allen Kirstie Alley

Brad and Caroline

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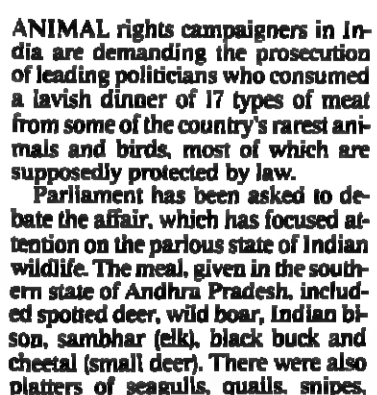
**Khartoum:** Sudan is to reintroduce a multiparty system after a nine-year ban. The decision was taken after the Khartoum parliament approved a Bill on Monday, the state-owned *al-Anbaa* newspaper said.

President Omar el-Bashir, who banned parties, unions and other groups after taking power in a 1989 coup, is due to sign the Bill into law this week. It will become effective on New Year's Day. Earlier, parliament passed a Bill forming a constitutional court as part of the Government's declared plan to restore democracy to the country, gripped by a long civil war between the Muslim north and Christian and animist south. (Reuters)

**Phnom Penh:** Sam Rainsy, Cambodia's lone Opposition leader, returned after two months of self-imposed exile, defying blanket security to pledge continued rejection of Hun Sen's Government. Armed police followed him, preventing scores of well-wishers from staging a demonstration. At one point police motorcyclists used batons to beat back supporters. Sam Rainsy said his return for today's convening of the national assembly did not signal his acceptance of the election results on July 26, which he claimed Hun Sen had won by fraud and intimidation. (AFP)

**Paris:** Masked robbers burst into a Paris department store and shot a passerby in the head when he tried to stop them, gravely wounding him, police said. Three others were seriously injured, two of them having been attacked with gun butts, and at least five were treated for shock. The thieves were chased by a crowd of shoppers, but escaped through the back entrance of the shop with Fr240,000 (about £24,000) from the money-changing office at the Printemps store on the Right Bank. (AP)

**Washington:** George Michael, right, will not deliver meals on wheels to Aids patients in Los Angeles — as he had wished — after all (Giles Whitnell writes). The British singer, who faces 81 hours of community service for performing a lewd act in a public lavatory, must spend the time encouraging children to do charity work, a Beverly Hills judge has ordered. The singer "came out" as a homosexual after his arrest.



State machinery was used to aid the slaughter. Meat was also bought at public expense from poachers who specialise in the slaughter of protected animals, making a mockery of government wildlife campaigns. The forests of India harbour the richest varieties of wildlife in India, but its forests are plundered by poachers operating almost without interference from the state government. Most exotic birdlife is now extinct in the region because of the unrelenting activities of birdtraders.

There was no particular occasion for holding the banquet: it appears to have been nothing more than a successful exercise by politicians demonstrating their wealth and power.

G. M. C. Balayog, Speaker of the

The arrest of Salman Khan, one of the Bollywood film industry's biggest heartthrobs, for allegedly hunting endangered animals has also focused attention on the vulnerability of wildlife. He has been released on bail. Several other film stars who hunted with him could also be

charged. The Bishnoi ethnic community in Rajasthan, which for more than 500 years has sworn non-violence against any living being, is leading a campaign for Mr King to be brought to trial. Parts of Rajasthan are home to several hundred species of deer, including the rare black buck, one of which was shot in the film-star hunt.

The Bishnois are so alarmed by the poaching that they have abandoned their core tenet and asked for weapons to save endangered wildlife from hunters. Many have died trying to protect animals and trees.

**Sydney:** Rod McGeogh, the businessman who spearheaded Sydney's successful campaign to host the 2000 Olympic Games, has resigned from the organising committee amid allegations that he asked for £3,000 to address a delegation of visiting Americans (Roger Maynard writes). The prominent Sydney lawyer, who is credited with beating out Beijing to host the millennium Olympics, said he was the victim of a "campaign of destabilisation".

**Guadalajara:** The Roman Catholic Church in Mexico is to excommunicate kidnappers in a campaign against soaring crime, Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez said. The deal to banish kidnappers would be signed this week by 12 bishops from western Mexico. Kidnappings and other crimes have soared since a devaluation of the peso in 1994 plunged Mexico into recession. (Reuters)

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# Is this how life really began?

An extraordinary theory about the origins of life is causing controversy, says Nigel Hawkes

The discovery of the world's oldest oil from rocks three billion years old was reported by Australian scientists last month. Last week the US space agency Nasa flew two aircraft into the path of the Leonid meteor shower in an attempt to discover whether particles from a comet contained traces of life.

These two unrelated events — one far beneath the surface of the Earth, the other far above it — are united by an extraordinary theory from one of the world's most original minds. Thomas Gold, now 78, has been throwing up provocative ideas for half a century, ever since he collaborated with Fred Hoyle and Hermann Bondi on the "steady state theory" of the Universe.

Though vanquished by the Big Bang, steady state theory has an honourable place in the history of cosmology. Dr Gold now concedes that he is "doubtful" it is right — a handsome concession by his standards — but that it was a path well worth following which led to an understanding of the origin of the elements.

His track record is impressive. Born in Vienna, he fled Hitler in the 1930s, took his degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, and helped to develop radar for the Admiralty between 1942 and 1946. His university career has taken him to Cambridge, Harvard and Cornell, and through research in zoology, physics, astronomy, radio-physics, space research and cosmology. He is, says Bondi, one of the outstanding scientists of our time.

In a famous encounter at a Royal Astronomical Society meeting in 1951, Gold asserted that the radio signals recently detected from space came from objects far outside our galaxy, a view derided by the radio-astronomer Martin Ryle. Gold was right, Ryle wrong. Much later, after the metronomic radio sources known as pulsars were discovered, Gold guessed they were rotating neutron stars — right again.

Perhaps most extraordinary of all, he made a claim about the mechanism of hearing, based on his experiments of 1946. For 30 years audiologists treated this as the meddling of an ignorant outsider until finally they acknowledged he was right. Freeman Dyson, a physicist whom Gold volunteered for the experiments, says: "About every five years he invades a new field of research and proposes an outrageous theory that arouses intense opposition from experts in the field. He then works very hard to prove the experts wrong."

None of Gold's theories has raised quite as many hackles as the one he outlines in

His claims bear on the wealth of nations

his new book, *The Deep Hot Biosphere* (Copernicus, £19). Even by Gold's standards, this is a humdinger. It amounts to saying that the geologists are entirely wrong about the origin of oil and natural gas, while the biologists are wrong about the origin of life. Why stir up one hornet's nest when you can stir up two?

The traditional theory of how oil and natural gas came to be in the Earth's crust is that they are the product of the decay of tiny creatures. That has implications both for the amounts of these valuable commodities in the crust, and on where to look for them. According to this view, hydrocarbons are the product of life.

Gold's view is the opposite: life, he asserts, is the product of hydrocarbons. As the Earth formed by the coalescence of chunks of material, which included carbon, it trapped complex hydrocarbons in its interior, from which they have been seeping upwards ever since. The gas and oil which the world relies on are, in his view, primordial and probably without limit.

Furthermore, they have provided nourishment for a subterranean life of bacteria deep in the crust. Gold says that human beings suffer from "surface chauvinism" — as creatures who live in the thin envelope between earth and sky, we can't contemplate the notion that other forms of life live beneath the crust.

Yet they do. In the past decade, a series of discoveries has shown that bacteria which have no need of light can survive and flourish in the interstices of the deep rocks, obtaining their energy by chemical rather than photosynthetic means. Biologists see these extremophiles, as they are called, as surface-living creatures which have invaded the depths, evolving to suit conditions. To Gold, it is the other way round: the extremophiles evolved first; we are merely a successful above-ground branch of the life they set in motion.

Recent research has also shown that comets, which can be considered remnants of the material from which the solar system was built, do contain organic material, including amino acids, the basic building blocks of life. That is why Nasa

was following the trail of the comet Tempel-Tuttle, fragments of which burn up in our atmosphere every year to form the Leonid meteor shower. If the comets contain such materials, then it is likely that the primitive Earth contained them too.

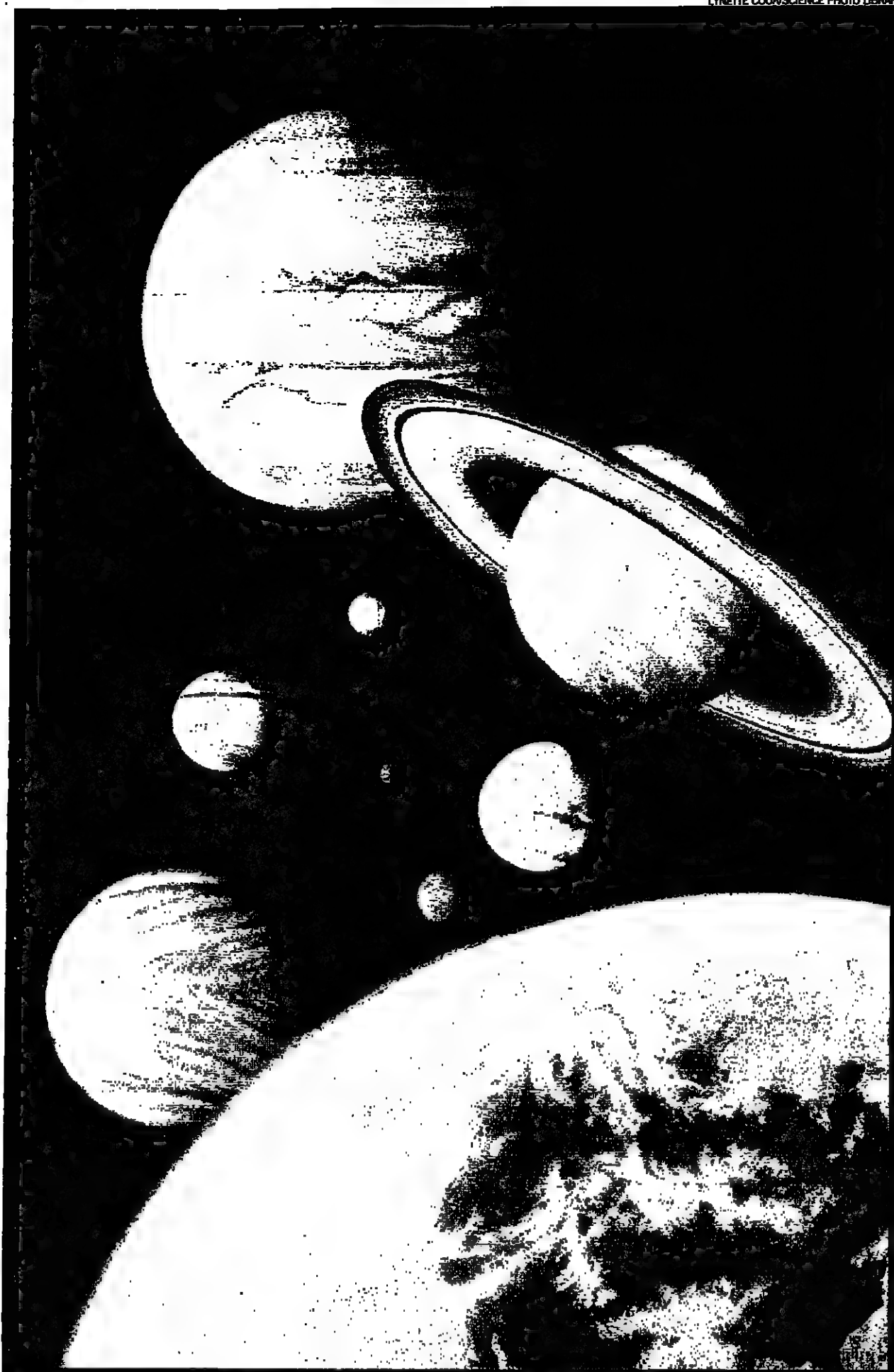
The obvious way to check Gold's theory was to drill a deep hole — somewhere geologists would least expect to find oil and gas. The drill was carried out in oil-poor Sweden, with results that are at best ambiguous. Near Rätvik, the drill holes reached a depth of 6.7km and produced about 12 tonnes of crude oil. Was this confirmation or disproof? To find so much oil where not a drop would be expected was remarkable. But to the oil industry, 12 tonnes (84 barrels) is barely a teaspoonful. "They claimed it was diesel oil that had been poured down the hole," says Gold. "But chemically it was completely different from diesel oil. We drilled another hole, 11km away, and found the same oil."

Geologists, including those who discovered the three-billion-year-old oil, remain convinced that oil is biogenic — the product of life. But there is a paradox they find hard to explain, and paradoxes, says Gold, "are merely nature's polite way, so to speak, of informing us that our understanding is incomplete or erroneous". The problem is that of explaining why helium is so often found along with oil and gas, and never on its own.

Gold believes that the movement of the primordial hydrocarbons through the crust sweeps up helium, which is produced by radioactive decay in the rocks, and carries it upwards. Geologists, he says, have no explanation except to say that helium produced in the crust must be trapped by the same geological structures that trap oil and gas. If that were true, there should be some traps where there is helium, but no oil or gas — none has been found. Gold says: "I have challenged them at geological meetings and said 'You give me a more plausible theory, or deny that my theory is right.' They can't."

If Gold is right, his theory has another consequence. In many planets of the solar system, there should be life below the surface. Finding it could prove difficult, since drilling into Mars, for example, is still beyond human ingenuity. But Gold suggests that traces of past life may be found on the surface of Mars — in such places as the canyon Valles Marineris, where landslides have exposed material which must once have been deeply buried.

Gold makes big claims that bear on world affairs, the wealth of nations and on people's reputations. As a controversialist with 50 years' experience, he is unrepentant: "I don't think I have anything to apologise for. I am almost always right."



Out of this world: Thomas Gold's theory suggests that life exists beneath the surface of other planets in our solar system

## Darwin's hidden secrets



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

CHARLES DARWIN may have called his masterpiece *The Origin of Species*, but it actually says little about that subject. He explains how individual species evolve, but not how new species originate. This process, known as speciation, remains deeply puzzling even today, despite the huge growth of knowledge about molecular genetics.

Geographical isolation and a change in the environment are two factors that favour speciation, but they hardly seem

adequate to trigger it. Now two teams, one from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, and the other from the University of Chicago, have identified genes that could control the process.

The Chicago team, led by Professor Chung-I Wu, started from the observation that matings between closely related species — the horse and the donkey, for example — often produce offspring that are sterile. Male sterility appears to be a barrier that keeps species apart. Using fruit flies, Professor Wu and colleagues searched

for the genes responsible. They took progressively shorter pieces of DNA from one species, *Drosophila simulans*, and introduced them into another, *Drosophila mauritiana*. They knew that the gene they wanted must lie between the shortest insert that caused infertility and the longest that did not.

In the current issue of *Science* they report that the gene they found, called *Ods*, lies on a piece of DNA that hardly changes between species. These so-called homeobox genes, which are involved in shaping the embryo and controlling development

of its cells, are among the slowest-evolving of all genes. "Homeobox genes usually don't differ by more than a few base pairs, even when you compare them in humans and invertebrates," says Professor Wu. "But when we looked at this homeobox gene in two very closely related species of fruit fly, they were extremely different, suggesting that the gene is evolving at a highly accelerated rate."

He estimates that it is changing up to 1,000 times faster than any other homeobox gene studied. The reason, he believes, is that it controls male sexual function, and rapid changes in such genes would be favoured because they might give one male the edge in the struggle to fertilise females. But the rapid change also means that one male's DNA may alter so

quickly that it can no longer work when combined with the DNA of a female which has not changed. In this case, the two can produce offspring, but the males are sterile, so the line comes to an abrupt end. Similar rapid evolution lies behind another model of speciation, from Dr Willie Swanson and Dr Victor Vacquier of

Scripps, published in *Science* in July. They show that in the abalone — a mollusc — the sperm produce a protein, lysin, which creates a hole in the egg envelope to enable fertilisation to occur. Lysin has to lock on to a receptor on the egg for this to occur, and the gene for that receptor can change rapidly, just like *Ods*. The chances are that other genes are also involved. But it looks as if the secrets hidden to Darwin are at last beginning to be unlocked.

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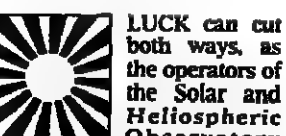
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**Fire and ice in Soho**



LUCK can cut both ways, as the operators of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SoHo) have discovered. In June, SoHo, a satellite in deep space used to observe the Sun, spun out of control after a ground-control error. Deprived of power from its solar cells, SoHo faced disaster. Some instruments were thrown into deep-freeze; others, exposed constantly to the Sun, heated up. When control was eventually regained the fear was that the instruments would have been wrecked. Far from it: the ones that were chilled survived well. One that was baked has actually benefited from the experience.

The Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope, designed to study the Sun's corona, had been plagued since launch in 1995 with contaminants, including water vapour and residues of hydrocarbons, which cut sensitivity. When SoHo went awry, the instrument was exposed for several months to direct sunlight, raising its temperature to more than 30C. This apparently evaporated the contamination, so that when it was switched on again, it worked much better.

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# Never mind the baby, is your stomach flat?

Thursday: Nadia, a pregnant friend, calls to ask if I have heard the one about the woman who pushed too hard while giving birth at Beth Israel Hospital during the summer. This is but the latest of the birthing horror stories I have been pilled with since announcing to friends that I was pregnant myself. When it came to her contractions, the woman apparently pushed so hard that the blood vessels in her eyes burst and the whites of her eyes remained bright red pools for a full two months afterwards.

"How awful. Imagine the photos," whispers Nadia, who has already hired a photographer and purchased a Donna Karan silk jacket to wear for her portrait, even though her baby is not due until next April. "They said the woman's eyes looked like gazpacho and she had to wear shades while breast-feeding so as not to scare the baby."

Friday morning: Though I have dismissed Nadia's story as yet another urban pregnancy myth, it has been secretly troubling me, so I raise the subject during my next routine doctor's appointment. "I



Joanna Coles  
NEW YORK LIFE

read somewhere that if you push too hard during labour, you can actually burst the blood vessels in your eyes." I say casually, trying to imply that I realise this is probably untrue.

"It happens," nods the doctor, equally casually, handing me a glass of glucose to test for gestational diabetes. She

looks at me and nods again. "That's why it helps to be prepared. Which classes are you doing?"

"You know, some prenatal exercises at the gym." She stares at me in horror. "You mean you don't have childbirth classes sorted out yet?"

"Well, I've been reading a lot," I say defensively. "Mir-

am Stoppard, Sheila Kitzinger... She rattles urgently through her desk, and interrupts my roll call of pregnancy literature. "Read this," she says, thrusting a leaflet called *Parent/Family Education* at me. "When you've worked out which one you want to take, call the hospital and tell them you need to sign up at once."

Friday evening: The *Parent/Family Education* leaflet reads like a university curriculum, offering 26 courses, each promising "Small Groups in an Intimate, Nurturing Atmosphere." From *Choices in Childbirth* ("The discussion will address the legal rights of healthcare consumers and how expectant parents and caregivers can communicate in positive ways") to *Why Lamaze?* ("Learn the opportunities available for personal growth and empowerment from the childbirth experience") and *A Primer for Parents* ("Know when to panic and when not to"). Unsure which will be most useful, I call the hospital for advice.

"Well, we like you and your partner to take a minimum of 19½ hours' instruc-

tion," says Jo Leonard, the programme administrator. "19½ hours? I thought it would be a couple of evenings."

"Anyway, I'm not sure we can fit you in. I mean some people book their places eight months in advance." I hear her scrolling through dates on her computer. "Full... full... full... All we have left is a weekend course," she says. "All day Saturday and Sunday, January 9/10. It's \$225."

Panicked, I sign up. "Oh, and tell me," she asks, "are you high risk?" "Well, officially I suppose yes, I'm 36."

"Oh, we don't consider that high risk," she says with a laugh. "We just had a mother who was 58."

Saturday morning: Nadia calls again. "Have you heard about outpouchings?" she asks this time. I admit I have not. "They're bits of your stomach that start to poke through your abdomen after you've given birth," she says. "And what about diastasis?"

No, I haven't heard of that either. "Well, listen to this," she says, reading aloud from an article she has just found

in *Harper's Bazaar*: "With diastasis, muscles can split apart, like a broken zipper. Women with extreme diastasis may have to wear stomach binders after delivery to hold in their internal organs."

Monday morning: Nadia's problems really worked in labour. Understanding how to push with a strengthened transverse muscle while relaxing the pelvic floor muscle gave me that mind-body connection. I am also pleased to report that I did not have an episiotomy (a surgical cut to enlarge the vaginal outlet, performed in 90 per cent of first births), she adds proudly. Maternal Fitness claims to be the "missing link in childbirth education" and is taught by "registered nurses who are also certified personal trainers."

With a heady 1,000 exercises a day, the course is further extolled in *Glamour*, *American Fitness* and *American Baby*, promising to reduce labour time and help your stomach muscles "snap back" afterwards. In Manhattan, where a new mother is judged less by her breast-feeding skills than by how fast she regains her figure, who could resist?

Thursday evening: The first of our six classes is to take place at the New York Sports Club, a barn-like gym on 37th Street and Fifth Avenue. Male partners are requested to attend and I am accompanied by a grumbling Peter.

Kimberley, our teacher, a bright-eyed, blonde cheerleader type, wearing a lilac University of Kansas sweatshirt, has us sit on blue gym mats in a row. She passes round a leaflet entitled *BAKS: Breathing, Abdominals, Kegels and Squatting*. Underneath the word Kegels is an illustration of a woman with her hair sticking up in terror and her intestines falling out. The picture is captioned "The Result of Not Doing Kegels."

The other couples look rather solemn and several produce notebooks as Kimberley addresses the men. "Boys, you may wonder why we ask you to come for the first two sessions," she says brightly.

I intercept Peter exchanging mischievous glances of agreement with the man next to him. "Well, your role is very important. Congratulations — you are now paid-up members of the foetus police."

# When Camilla took me to task

Rory Bremner, Britain's leading satirist, has become a court jester to the Prince of Wales. At the Prince's 50th birthday party at Highgrove, he launched into a version of a Dr Doolittle song, reworked as *If I Could Talk To The Vegetables*, confident that he would not offend his royal host.

"I do have an affection and regard for Prince Charles," says the 37-year-old comic. "But there is a certain licence. The Prince took it very well. He was relaxed and among friends."

Bremner's presence at this exclusive event confirms that he has been absorbed into the very establishment circles he targets in his biting comedy impressions. As well as being part of Prince Charles's favourites, he lunches regularly with top political figures and is in demand for society gatherings such as *Tatler's* Little Black Book Party for eligible singles, where he met his girlfriend.

Bremner, raised in Edinburgh and educated at Wellington and King's College London, is aware of the dichotomy. He says of the public figures whom he lampoons one day and shares canapés with the next: "They know what I do, and I have to do it without fear or favour. I do feel drawn into a circle but I reserve the right to criticise."

Bremner's act went down so well with Prince Charles and his guests that he is considering giving television audiences a taste of it later in his current Channel 4 series *Rory Bremner... Who Else?* A recent edition featured a spoof Jerry Springer show entitled *Let Di-Gones be Bygones*, which culminated in the Queen giving Camilla Parker Bowles a drubbing with her handbag.

His new CD/cassette *Beware of Imitations* includes a Camilla sketch in which he points out that no one knows what she sounds like, and then produces a gruff navy's voice. Mrs Parker Bowles gave her verdict of his representation of her when she collared him at the party.

"She took me to task," Bremner says. "She said: 'I think you need to work a bit on the voice.' She obviously knew I was doing impressions of her. She does have a deepish voice and is absolutely charming."

"On my CD I do the voice-mail for Buckingham Palace: 'If you want to marry Charles, dial 1 now.'"

Bremner arrived at the

Rory Bremner's presence at the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party confirms that he has been absorbed into the very establishment circles he targets. Interview by Moira Petty



"They know what I do and I do it without fear or favour. I reserve the right to criticise"

Prince's Gloucestershire home in the afternoon to run through his act with Stephen Fry, who was compering. Later he returned in evening dress with his girlfriend, Zoe Appleby. "It was great fun to be a fly on the wall at a gathering like that."

"It was the first time anyone had said to me, 'Rory, have you met the King of Greece?' It was worth the petrol money just for that. I asked if I could see his Marbles. He turned

out to be a big fan of the show. "At dinner, Charles sat between the Queen of Spain and the Queen of Norway. It was like a dockyard for Siena liners. It was great fun. The royals are far more human than people give them credit for. When the *gratin dauphinois* are down — I would hesitate to say chips — they're not bad people."

On his CD, Bremner controversially makes a reference to the death of Diana, Princess of

Wales, without naming her. In the item, the Queen is reflecting on "the great loss to the country" and how crowds would gather to greet "her" and wave goodbye. A hush descended on the Edinburgh audience for the live recording, then "the Queen" added: "When we gathered to say goodbye, I turned to my husband and said 'we're going to miss that yacht, you know?'"

Bremner defends himself: "As long as it's funny, it's not

in bad taste. Laughter takes the sting out of it. The danger is that you will go further for the sake of it and get into areas which are gratuitous and vindictive. Towards its end, *Spitting Image* degenerated into a kind of graffiti."

The Springer sketch, in which Charles introduced "my grocer, Mohamed", whose bleated-out swearing was rivalled by the Queen's, attracted criticism. "People write in complaining. But asking me never to swear in the show is like asking an artist to paint without the colour blue." Bremner describes his CD as "a thermometer gauging the pulse of new Britain". With his co-performers and writers, John Bird and John Fortune, he lunches with opinion-formers and politicians, often cold-calling them first.

"These lunches are not intended to pin people down. We ring them out of the blue and they're surprisingly flattered."

The day after the Prince of Wales's party, Bremner and the two Johns lunched with Tony Benn, who had much to say about new Labour's world of papers and MPs "on message". "He said he felt less like an MP and more like an Avon lady. Nearly every day he gets a fax from Millbank saying something like 'Mr Benn applauds the policy on...' and he is expected to turn it round and fax it off to the *Derbyshire Times*."

A new Government has given him a fresh range of personalities to play with. He has been working on Tony Blair since he took over as leader of the Labour Party from John Smith. "He wears his sincerity on his cuff links. I parody him but I don't find him insincere."

His celebrity characters fall into two groups. "There are those I have a fondness for and those I want to take a line on for a policy or point of view, such as Robin Cook. Personal lives don't interest me but his was handled so appallingly. 'I look forward to spending the rest of my life with the woman I love'... who does he think he is, Edward VIII?"

Bremner's own marriage, to the artist and teacher Susie Davies, ended in 1994 after eight years. He blames his workload, which kept him in London while his wife lived in Hampshire. "Divorce is some-

thing you never quite get over. I want to give what I can to various charities as a way of proving that I am not actually a bad person. Perhaps I take on too many things to help friends out."

In 1997 he met Zoe Appleby, then 24 and an investment banker with Merrill

Lynch. "There was a chemistry. I like people with intelligence. Good looks matter but attraction is not a logical thing."

He says he is "happy and grounded at the moment" and enjoys living alone. Work is his priority. "I throw myself into work to get over the di-

voice. I used to say to Susie: 'If you want to know what's in my head, look at my desk. If it's in a mess and I am behind with work, I'm unhappy.' My work is so much more significant than my emotional life."

● *Rory Bremner's CD/cassette Beware of Imitations is released on the Laughing Stock label on Monday. The same day, from 5.30 to 6.30pm, he will be signing copies at Politics Bookshop, 8 Artillery Row, Westminster.*

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# Beware the Philistines of publishing

James Fenton laments the passing of the OUP poetry list

So the travails of the Asian "tiger economies" have brought down the Oxford University Press poetry list? I think not. I think that a muscular assertion of new priorities has brought down the list and that this is deplorable. I have friends among both the vicious Philistines and the smarting Israelites. May I speak up for the Israelites?

There are very few mainstream, unsubsidised publishers who run a poetry list. The leading name is Faber which publishes between five and ten new titles a year. Oxford was the second, averaging eight new titles. Cape, Picador, Penguin and Chatto are maintaining a commitment to the poets they publish, without having any plans to extend their list further.

You see how alarming the situation is for an Israelite. I expect the mainstream publishers to bring out, next year, about 25 new titles. The full Oxford list contains 42 names, of which some are dead and some have moved elsewhere. But there are 26 axed Israelites looking for new houses. They have only four London firms to turn to, before looking to the subsidised stalwarts of the North, Carcanet and Bloodaxe.

The situation is odd, considering that there is nothing easier to produce than a book of poems. For my part, I have enjoyed being published in every kind of way (except the fancy vellum-bound edition). I have published on two garage presses. I have published myself from abroad and sent packages out from home. And I've been on mainstream lists.

The beauty of the small presses is that, for a comparatively small amount, you can design and produce a nice-looking volume. Nor is it really hard to sell the first few hundred of an edition — particularly if, as our modern poets so doggedly do, you carry around a few copies to take to readings.

The small presses rely entirely on enthusiasm and fantasy, but they are able to exhaust themselves. One is selling, as it were, at the farm gate; one would not expect to receive bulk orders from chainstores. There is a powerful feeling in the publishing of poetry that one is casting one's bread upon the waters. And I can tell you that there is a thrill in sending off a copy to the British Library or the Bodleian, knowing that, whatever happens, the utterance has been made. The curious reader will be able to retrieve it.

For the serious poet, the achievement of a huge audience is not a great consideration. Of course it is exciting, and flattering, to break through from the few hundred to the thousands. But that is not one's purpose in writing poetry. I don't think Auden's first book, which made his reputation, sold more than a thousand copies for a matter of years, and I am sure Auden didn't care two hoots.

What is frustrating is to find

that there are people who would like to read your work, or to track down something they heard on the radio, but they can't find it. There is no substitute for a mainstream publisher prepared to take the long view. It is hard for the small presses to achieve what Penguin has, for instance, achieved for Tony Harrison's *Selected Poems*, which was first published in 1984 and has sold around 50,000 copies, and still sells at a solid rate of 2,500 a year. A similar volume by Roger McGough has sold 36,000 since 1990, while Carol Ann Duffy has sold 17,000 of her recent *Selected Poems*, but the annual sales are rising. This year her volume will sell about 3,000.

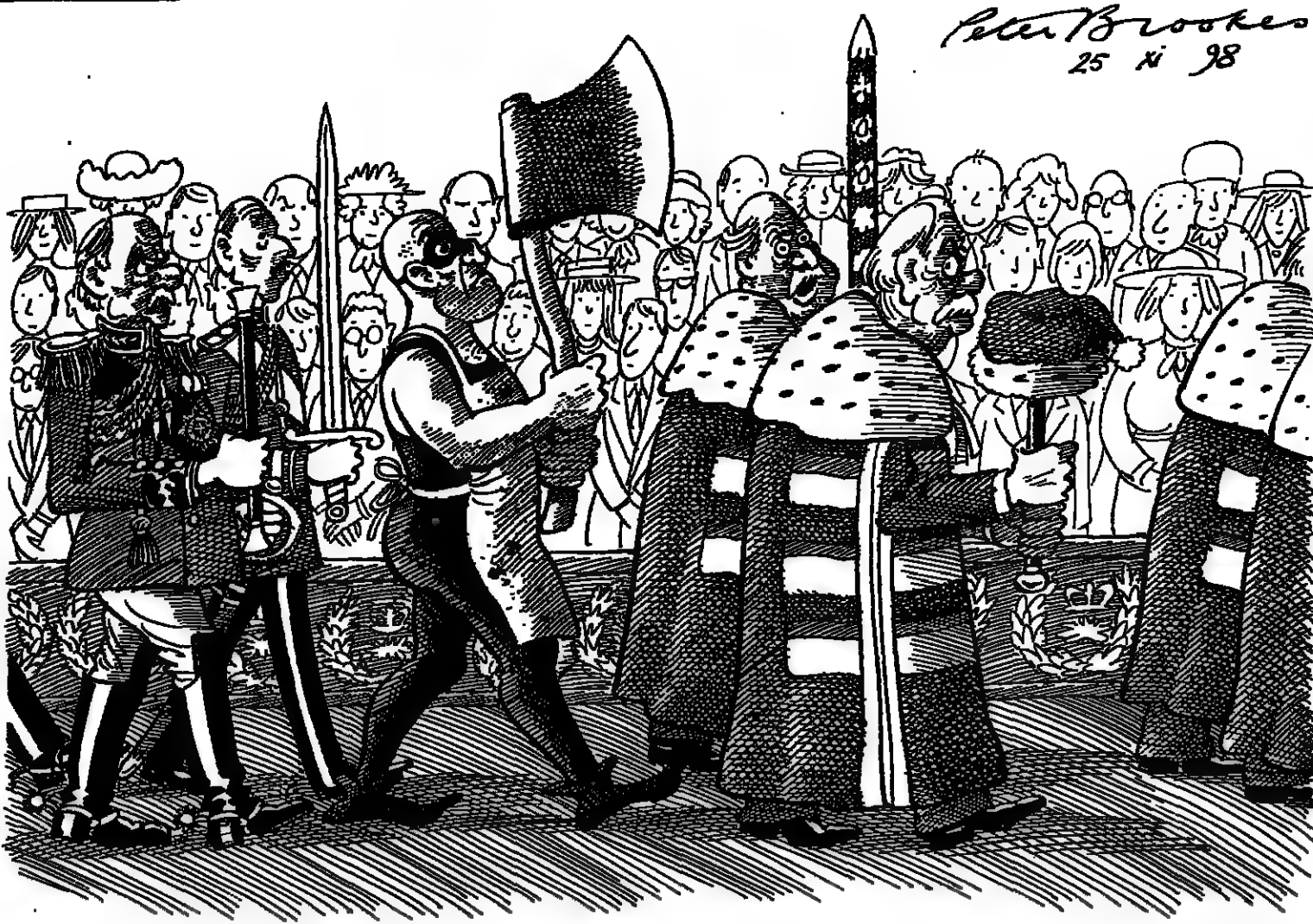
Penguin's list differs from the Oxford list in that it is made up of poets who tend to have made their reputations elsewhere. It includes some plausible-sounding properties. However, in the hands of an accountant even these figures can be made to seem rather less satisfactory by the following ruse.

If a conglomerate publisher decides that every book on its list must be conceived as bearing an equal load of the expenses of the firm, then what once looked like a modestly profitable little number suddenly turns into a disgraceful little slacker. If my slim volume must do its part in sending a hundred booby publishers to Frankfurt, or commissioning a coffin-shaped table for the boardroom, then I am at a serious disadvantage.

The problem was not that the Oxford list was not making money. It just wasn't making a huge sum. One of the Oxford poets reported to me the following desperate exchange. Defender of the list: "But the backlist brings in £10,000 a year in permissions." The Philistine: "That's nothing. Vaughan-Williams brings in £240,000 a year." You can see what the Israelites are up against. Were up against, for no one believes this decision can be reversed. The Oxford poetry list has not been around as long as the press itself. It was put together by the poet Jon Stallworthy in the 1960s and 1970s, and was nearly closed in the 1980s after another muscular assertion of new priorities.

Just as the poetry list has not always been with us, so the alternative methods of production have expanded in recent years. Each century's approach to publishing has been different, and we are going to have to find new methods in the next. This is something which, as poets, we are going to have to do for ourselves. Someone will come along and crack that problem for a while. And that is something to look forward to. But it is always sad to see decades of effort thrown away. The Philistines are upon thee. The Philistines are upon thee.

The author is Professor of Poetry at Oxford University.



"I DON'T REMEMBER HIM LAST TIME..."

## Kingdom of murk

The People's Constitution is being threatened by the Lords reform row

Forget the House of Lords. Forget the chattering soap opera that is second chamber reform. Ignore that rumbling appendix of the constitution, whose botched extraction is to pollute the rest of this Parliament. Every British ruler feels he must please the London mob with a war or two. Tony Blair's King of Spain's beard is to be the hereditary peerage. So be it. Let tournament commence. Let the knights be brave, the lances sharp and the wenchies lubricious. This is a mere sideshow.

In its manifesto, the Labour Party promised a constitutional reform more radical than anything seen this century — and I do not refer to the Lords. Its evolution from "cronyism by descent" to "cronyism-for-life" is hardly a constitutional earthquake. Anyone who can explain the legislative supremacy of a friend-of-Blair over the son of a friend-of-Lloyd George is a better geneticist than I am. If the Cabinet has energy to spare on parliamentary reform, it should attend to Commons procedure. "Lack of parliamentary time" remains the most inexcusable apology for ministerial inertia. The British Parliament at present seems obsessed with everyone's productivity but its own.

The constitution most in need of reform is that beyond the Westminster pale. In its manifesto, Labour pledged to decentralise power, to liberate the politics in which most people participate — local politics — decreed by the Thatcher and Major Governments. For once the possessive cliché "the people's" had meaning: this was the people's constitutional reform. The politics of Britain beyond Parliament would be recast as drastically as Labour would recast the welfare state. These two realms, local politics and the welfare state, remain at the heart of new Labour's claim to radicalism. Modernise both and Mr Blair's new party will deserve its laurels. Fail, and all other victories are pyrrhic.

On the People's Constitution, the proposals are well-known. Devolution is in place for Scotland, and a weaker version for Wales. White Papers exist on reviving London government, electing mayors, uncapping rates, raising transport taxes and rekindling interest in local elections. The spring-clean undertaken by junior Environment Ministers Nick Raynsford and Hilary Armstrong make House of Lords reform

seem mere washing of the doorstep. On paper, Britain could soon have a local government as revitalised as in reformed Spain, France, Italy and Scandinavia. The blueprints are there. These are the most exciting measures yet to emerge from the Blair Government.

Yet anyone can write blueprints. They are the intellectual paper money of modern politics. The test is action, victory in Cabinet, inclusion in a Queen's Speech. Yesterday's speech was crucial, the agenda for the last main session before the pre-election session of this Parliament. In yesterday's speech the People's Constitution faltered. It is still staggering forward, but covered in awful wounds.

First the story so far. Mr Blair shrewdly cleared Scotland and Wales at the start of his administration. The trouble Labour is encountering north of the border shows the virtue of this speed. Suggest Scottish devolution now and I doubt if the Labour Party would dare it. On London Mr Blair wobbled, partly because the relevant minister, John Prescott, was unenthusiastic. But an elected mayor for the capital was a clear commitment and, Ken Livingstone or no, it will happen come the millennium. The political electrification of London will commence at last. Coupled with the Scottish assembly, these two innovations stand vastly to the credit of this Government.

The rest of the People's Constitution now passes from the kingdom of light to the kingdom of murk. Students of new Labour may recall a nasty spat that broke out in the spring between Mr Prescott and the Downing Street "control freaks" over his much-loved transport White Paper. Mr Prescott had read his party manifesto as indicating that Labour should discourage car use, tax congestion and redistribute resources to public transport. This would specially help London, where the new mayor would need revenue to invest in the Tube (or pay a king's ransom to the City to invest in the Tube). To any

who suggested that this might be too radical for the timid souls of Downing Street, Mr Prescott threatened horrible disfigurement.

In presenting his White Paper, Mr Prescott openly boasted that he had beaten the Treasury into conceding "hypothecated" transport taxes. These are taxes fixed, collected and spent locally on a specific service. The Treasury opposes all taxes it does not control itself. Few politicians boast that they have beaten the Treasury and live. It emerged that the Treasury had conceded only the principle of these taxes, and only on condition of "further consultation", experimentation and delay. Downing Street lobbyists were even more curt. They told Mr Prescott

that he had misread the manifesto. What he really said was that Labour would never upset car users, impose taxes on them or tax Labour's good friends, the supermarket owners. In a nutshell, he could disfigure any one he liked: any Bill enacting his transport White Paper was dead.

What happened next offers an insight into the bearpit that is modern government. The London Bill was still on course for this session, but its references to London Transport depended on the now-defunct transport Bill. What to do? The answer was to strip the latter's corpse and insert its transport clauses in the London Bill. Hence the Queen's bizarre references to her Government combating road congestion and improving public transport, but only in London. Londoners would be permitted to tax themselves for better public transport, a right enjoyed by every world city, though nobody else would.

One up to Mr Prescott, one down to the Treasury. We turn now to the third leg of the People's Constitution: after Scottish devolution and then London comes the rest of local government. Last July Mr Prescott's colleague Hilary Armstrong published a White Paper on local democracy entitled *In Touch with the*

People. This promised a Bill of startling radicalism. There could be elected mayors throughout Britain — possibly in advance of London — as well as local referendums, more frequent local elections, an end to rate-capping, variations in business rates and a range of "value-for-money" audits to replace competitive tendering. The document offered to re-establish local government as a force for novelty and dynamism in British public administration. And this Bill, supported by the brighter heads in Downing Street's policy unit, was rumoured to be a certainty for the Queen's Speech.

What happened? The Queen's Speech contained only a fragment of Mr Armstrong's Bill. At the last minute, a Cabinet obsessed with the Lords sacrificed the greater reform for the smaller one. More intriguing is what survived the butchery. Every decentralist chapter in Mr Armstrong's White Paper was relegated to a strange Purgatory called a "draft Bill". Gone were the elected mayors outside London. Gone were new election structures, business tax-varying powers, codes of conduct and any prospect of councils raising their own extra revenue.

What survived intact, surprise, surprise, were those measures unashamedly extending the power of central government, those supported by the Treasury. These include weapons for ministers to intervene in local services, with performance indicators, league tables, standardised spending assessments and value-for-money audits. The new local government Bill is, in short, a Whitehall "control freaks" charter. The People's Constitution should now read the Treasury's Constitution. We must rewrite Pope: "For forms of government let fools contest/What e'er is faster centralised is best."

There could be no better test of the supremacy of the controllers over the decentralisers in Mr Blair's Government than the fate of Mr Armstrong's Bill. True, Scotland is up and away and London creeps forward. But in the rest of Britain, constitutional reform is stalled as the Cabinet conducts its petty squabble with the Lords. The Praetorian Guard of British government may lose an occasional skirmish to the ragged forces of democracy. It never loses a war.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



Boldly going to spread the millennial message

Did your heart not leap up at yesterday's news that Millennium Voyager had, at the firm poke of Mr Chris Smith's button-finger, been launched from Cape Whitehall and sent into an eight-month orbit round the outer space which is regional Britain? I know mine did. It bounced from one side of my rib-cage to the other. It turned somersaults. For Millennium Voyager is nothing less than a state-of-the-art big lorry, painted in rotten-egg-resistant silver to enable it to boldly go where no Culture Secretary has gone before, and it is packed to its shimmering gunwales with not only a scale model of the Greenwich Dome, but also several tonnes of cutting-edge leaflets. More yet, it plans to make soft landings at 23 different regional points, in the hope of coming across intelligent life, or, at any rate, life which cannot wait to see a cardboard dome and to grab from Mr Smith's crack crew of lissome soubrettes — tight, perhaps, sequins, very possibly pink satin toppers — the shiny burnt that trumpets the countless fabulous events planned to take place in every nook and cranny of the quiescent, throughout the year 2000. The declared object being, as you will no doubt have read, to reassure those of us doomed to living outside Central London that we have not been utterly ignored.

And, indeed, hardly had this great news broken than Millennium Voyager hurried through Crickelewood. It did not, of course, stop — doubtless preferring both to hang on to its hubcaps and to keep its serial straight — but nearly three leaders were gently chucked through its porthole, one, as luck would have it, at my very feet. Raising those feet, seconds later, so far above the ground that I walked home on air.

For in January 2000, we are, I see, to have the Crickelewood Bach Festival. The 8th Tawny Cub Pack Symphony Orchestra will play Bits of Toccata and Beers' Picnic, the slow movement of the Double Kazoo Concerto in G minor (if wet, in D major), and the rarely performed Noises Bach Made By Putting His Hand in His Armpit And Bringing His Arm Down. More thrilling yet, in February, we are to be blessed with not only a goodwill millennial visit by the Grodzinski Puppet Theatre of Kiev, who will perform *Private Lives* in the Kwiksavie car park (dogs not admitted), but also a display on Clitterhouse Playing Fields by the Red Arrows Double-Glazing Team.

March brings the Hendon-to-Crickelewood Vintage Wheelie-Bin Rally, where hopes are high for entries from many famous residents such as a woman living up the road from beloved local MP Ken Livingstone, and the man who swears he once saw rumoured neighbourhood superstar Tom Conti filling up at the Blue Star Garage in Fortune Green Road. As if this were not enough, on the evening of that very same day the Crickelewood Tavern will host a quiz between two teams of well-known experts on the subject of beer, and, if time permits, fags.

There seems, however, to be little of major interest in April, apart from the Dersingham Road Mixed Infants' Sir Isaiah Berlin Lookalike Contest, but May's improving weather, I'm overjoyed to learn, will bring us the fortnight-long Crickelewood Fayre, to be held at various prestige locations throughout the region, including a Scenic Walk round Brent Cross, a display of cheese-labellers collected by Harlesden Police dog-handlers and their lady wives, a Checkout Princess of East Willesden Pageant (to include six floats and a vintage Mondelco), a tug o'war battle between Golders Green Flat Earth Society and Edgware British Legion Gurkhas for the Peter Mandelson Millennium Sauser, and a Find-the-Video-Recorder Race between Granada TV Rental Ltd and 600 members of the Kilburn No Fixed Abode Club, to say nothing of such other traditional village events, while stocks last, as drunk-rolling, supermarket trolley-throwing, streetlamp shies and, of course, the time-honoured Greasy Pole Racial Abuse Contest.

As to the joys awaiting this fortunate region for the rest of 2000, I fear I cannot tell you. They must be on a second leaflet. I shall go out now and poke around in the gutters.

## Garter club

FROM Brixton to the Order of the Garter, John Major is to sweep into Britain's grandest order of chivalry, a club to which the adjective "exclusive" can for once be added with accuracy: membership is restricted to a select 24. The former PM will replace Lord Hunt, who has joined that less restrictive club in the sky.

The Queen awards Knights of the Garter on St George's Day, so Major will wait until April to join his three dear cronies: Sir Edward Heath, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and Baroness Thatcher.

Constitutional bods are impressed by the speed of Major's appointment: Sir Edward had to wait 18 years after leaving Downing Street. Lord Callaghan for eight and the baroness had to kick her heels for five.

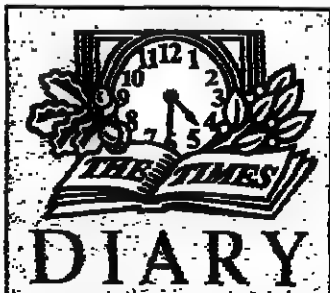
Major's honour comes less than two years after he was turfed out. "The speed depends on their level of political activity," says my friend with the pipe. "Wilson entered the Order immediately, because his break from office was final. Heath had to wait as he was still a player, and Thatcher had to wait for him as she couldn't leapfrog him." I

hope this does not signal Mr Major's political death warrant.

SENDING condolences to Boris Yeltsin over the murder of Galina Starovoitova: Lady Thatcher. The late Russian campaigner visited Lady T during the coup, giving her a secret phone number enabling her then PM to send moral support to Yeltsin. "It was a meeting between two blonde good-looking, successful ladies," Lord Bethell



"I was caught fishing outside the off stump"



tells me: "I had to translate down the line with the shells pounding the Moscow White House. It was an extraordinary experience."

Nosh for dosh NORTHERN wallies, so jealously guarded, are to be challenged by Marco Pierre White (right), the adolescent onion chopper, who is to return to his airbrushed roots. The dyslexic half-Italian who fought from a rough-house Leeds estate to conquer the London restaurant scene has graciously agreed to serve fashionable nosh in the folk he left behind. The Mirabelle proprietor will open at the Queens Hotel (claim to fame: Duran Duran stayed there, once). His play to lure discerning Yorkshiremen: bottles of Château d'Yquem 1847 (passable, I find) at

£30,000 a glug. Marco and Leeds were a dynamic union: "My childhood was about survival. I had to come South. I was different to the people around me."

ITN led on William Hague's naughty swipe about Tony Blair wanting to create a House of Lords for "Lord Mandelson of Rio". The BBC Six O'Clock News ignored it, perhaps taking its orders, not to mention the Trade Secretary's private life, a little too strictly.

Absent foes NOTICEABLE absentees from the Queen's big day: Mo Mowlam, the



Northern Ireland Secretary, preferred to sit on a couch in the Richard and Judy studio chatting with Carol Keating and Ross Kelly. When asked to explain her failure to make the State Opening, she replied that she had confused her dates before calling the event "boring". "Thank you for turning down the Queen and all the Lords," she was told. She laughed: "I hope they won't be here very much longer."

Princess Margaret was also unable to make it, but she had the excuse of flu. Dennis Skinner was more embarrassed. He has waited decades to hear Her Majesty announce the abolition of blue bloods. But he could not park because of the security cordon. Desperate, he ditched his car near the Abbey, ordering policemen to stop it being towed away. Unfortunately, he still missed the culmination of his life's moaning.

WOMEN sticking together. Cheryl Gillan on her fellow Tory MP, Ann Widdecombe: "Ann's only vanity is painting her nails."

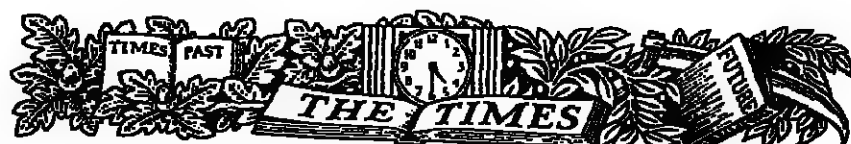
Book binds A.S. BYATT, Julian Barnes, Margaret Drabble and Ruby Wax (right) could have a new guardian, Peters Fraser & Dunlop, our most



powerful literary agent, might come under the wing of Robert Fox, the impresario. Michael Sissons, chairman, has held secret talks with Robert Fox, brother of James and Edward. Friends suggest Sissons wants to spend more time killing foxes. This promises to be unsettling for his authors. Drabble was introduced to the outfit by J.B. Priestley. "It served me very well," she says. "I am very fond of the people there. Michael has been very good at keeping me out of muddles." Robert Harris's response? "Good God! Good luck."

JASPER GERARD





## UNHAPPY INTERESTS

A Queen's Speech with plenty to upset the powerful

A characteristic of this Government has been its unwillingness to make enemies. All Labour's traditional opponents — business leaders, the middle classes, car owners, farmers — have been stroked and mollified in order to maximise the party's support in the country. But the coming legislative session will at last begin the process of confrontation which should be inevitable by this stage in a Parliament.

Until now, Tony Blair has been prepared to take on only two unpopular remnants of what he sees as old Britain, the far Left of his own party, and the hereditary peerage. These two enemies will have plenty to bluster about in the new session. Left-wing MPs will oppose him on welfare reform, particularly the changes to incapacity benefit. They will also be disappointed by the sensible changes made to the Fairness at Work Bill. Hereditary peers, meanwhile, will not only be reluctant to vote for their own demise: they will be tempted to bring down as much of the Government's legislative edifice as they can in the process.

But these will not be the only vested interests to be troubled by the Government's programme. Many doctors will resent losing their fundholding status and will find commissioning a poor substitute. Their hospital colleagues may be dismayed to find the searchlight of accountability shone on them by the Commission for Health Improvement.

If one group of professionals were not enough for this session, Mr Blair also plans to take on lawyers, through the reforms of legal aid; the disabled, through changes to disability and incapacity benefit; and teachers, through the Green Paper on pay that he is publishing next week.

Meanwhile, the party that promised to govern as the friend of business has produced a mishmash of proposals on workers' rights that manage to offend both sides of industry. Employers will find them

onerous and potentially disruptive, while unions believe that they do not go far enough. This is "unfinished business" of the worst kind, a law that is being passed not because the country demands it, but because Labour's paymasters demand it.

Mr Blair has been bold, however, in introducing more welfare reform into this session. Having come into office hoping to transform welfare in one stroke, he has come to realise that incremental change is both easier to achieve and, eventually, more effective. Creeping compulsion is designed to deter benefit claimants from signing on and working at the same time. The younger unemployed are being forced to take jobs; others, such as the disabled and lone parents, are being forced to come to interviews. The changes to benefits themselves will affect only new claimants, so any savings will take time to filter through. But, like the Tories' policy of tying pensions to prices rather than earnings, they should in the long run make a sizeable dent in the social security budget.

Most difficult will be reform of the House of Lords. The Prime Minister must at least set a strict time limit on the royal commission's report and give it terms of reference specific enough for others to be able to discern the outlines of the new Upper House through the deliberative fog. The price of insisting on Lords reform is the dropping of many worthy Bills — such as transport, freedom of information, party funding and elected mayors — all because the Lords may obstruct business.

By the end of the coming session, Mr Blair will be battle-scarred and weary. But he may be entitled to wear a few medals. He will have taken the side of the patient against bad doctors, the parent against bad teachers and the taxpayer against lazy benefit claimants. When politicians take on vested interests, they always lose friends. But that is what governing is all about.

## ART FOR THEIR OWN SAKES

How Greek politicians exploited both Prince and Marbles

Only the most awkward return trip to Greece, one might think, could make the Prince of Wales look back nostalgically upon his Aegean honeymoon cruise. But the harangues directed at him in Athens this week may have made even the moods of the newly married Princess Diana seem benign.

Evanghelos Venizelos, a youthful demagogue in Greece's ruling Socialist Party, began by telling the Prince that his official visit to Greece should be a "symbolic step" towards the return of the Elgin Marbles. Not content with making his demands only once, the Culture Minister followed up with repeated populist remarks about the empty Acropolis museum to which, he said, the Marbles must one day be welcomed, on the new technologies that would be devoted to their care and on the suitability of the year 2004, the date of the Athens Olympics, for their repatriation.

Since the Prince is utterly powerless on this issue, Mr Venizelos might possibly be accused of mere ill-manners. Since the Prince's powerlessness will not cease if he becomes King, it was perhaps no more than fatuous for the Mayor of Athens, Dimitris Avramopoulos, to suggest that he inaugurate his reign by emptying the most glorious gallery of the British Museum. Nonetheless, despite the good sense of senior Greek leaders who know how futile and counter-productive such a campaign will be, the demands of Mr Venizelos and his friends are unlikely to cease.

However parlous the state of the Greek economy, however dependent is the country on its European partners, "It's the Marbles, stupid" has become the mantra for young socialist politicians on the rise. The voluble Mr Venizelos, while referring always to the works as the politically correct "Parthenon Marbles", is relying wholly for his political gains on their more familiar British name. Unless they are the

"Elgin Marbles" they are useless as the symbol of national deprivation which certain Greek ministers, following the lead of Melina Mercouri in the early Eighties and urged on by their nationalistic media today, have decided that they should be.

The ownership of the Marbles from the Parthenon is an impossible issue to resolve. Most of those with a claim in the past 2,000 years have had no interest in them at all. Today there are much-prized and legally acquired parts in Paris, Vienna, Karlsruhe, Copenhagen, Würzburg and Palermo as well as the major remains in Athens and London. To bring them all to Athens, in the name either of some ancient title or modern aesthetic sense, is an ambition with no basis in law, justice or likelihood.

Modern Greek ambition to possess the Elgin Marbles, above all other Ancient Greek artworks that are in collections around the globe, does not go back much beyond Ms Mercouri's time. It is a modern political ambition. Although the sculptures were carved on land that is now the state of Greece, on that same land they were neglected and for centuries barely even noticed. In 19th-century England, and only then and there, did those parts of the Parthenon frieze which Lord Elgin brought back from the Napoleonic Wars become a cultural icon in their own right, inspiring Keats, Shelley, Landseer, Haydon, West, Watts, Leighton and a host of other poets, sculptors and writers, whose view of art and nature was transformed by what they saw and where and how they saw it.

The Marbles are milestones, many different milestones, in European culture. Anyone who truly loves Greece, from the Prince of Wales to the Hellenist scholars of every continent, must despair at the self-pitying, self-destructive campaign to take these extraordinary stones back to where they were once cut and away from where they have inspired the whole world.

## FREEDOM AND FIRE

Schools need to handle racist parties with special care

The right to be heard, the former American Vice-President Hubert Humphrey once wisely observed, does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously. It was doubtless in that robust spirit that the pupils of the Dulwich College Sociology Society decided to invite a representative of the British National Party to address a recent lunchtime meeting.

The event was part of a wider series covering extremist movements in British politics. In that context, speakers from the National Socialist Workers Party and the Anti-Nazi League have already been accommodated. The invitation itself was issued by a boy from an Asian-British background. Neither individual students, the society nor the school can be accused of intending to advance the BNP's agenda.

The intellectual curiosity is admirable. There is also an attractive argument for permitting overt racists such as the BNP to cut their own throats with the paucity of their public words. Most pupils who attended the meeting appear to have been appalled at what was put before them and reacted to the speaker with polite hostility.

The exercise of judgment in this case is, though, much less certain. Chris Field, Deputy Master of the school, defended the

decision on the basis that boys would want to hear from "a wide spectrum of political views" and that "this country is about free speech... let them make up their own minds." The BNP is not, however, merely another party. Nor is absolute freedom of speech the single standard of a constitutional democracy. There is a sharp distinction to be drawn between fringe organisations which would overturn the entire political basis upon which this country is currently ordered and others who would select a certain category of citizens for special and adverse treatment.

This would be true for any school but becomes a matter of special sensitivity in an establishment such as Dulwich College, which has a diverse ethnic intake. That some pupils and parents were offended by the invitation is hardly surprising. There is a difficult line to be drawn between freedom of speech and responsible behaviour. At a university — where the exchange of ideas in all forms is rightly the central feature of academic life — the BNP and its sort should be permitted a proper platform. In schools the balance of argument is different. Dulwich College would now be wise to invite a mainstream speaker to make the case for colour-blind politics.

## 'Blind alley' of bombing Iraq

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, Saddam Hussein represents a threat to world peace. The US and Britain alone are threatening to use armed force to compel him to abate that threat. The three political parties in this country support this policy. It seems that only a handful of MPs, mostly on the Left of the Labour Party, query it — much the same group as queried the necessity to launch a war to evict the Argentinians from the Falklands.

I was one of the even smaller handful on the Right who queried the justification for that war until all the resources of diplomacy had been exhausted. Am I still alone in believing that Anglo-American policy, unsupported by our European partners, is driving fast up a narrowing blind alley? If we do bomb Iraq we will alienate pretty well the whole of the Arab, probably the whole Muslim world, and it will not topple Saddam. And, even if we did topple Saddam, what then? Almost certainly a more fundamentalist leader would replace him. There was a time when Saddam was regarded by the West as a bulwark against the spread of Muslim extremism.

Should not the object of Western policy be to try to get back to that state of affairs? Should we not be using the promise of an early lifting of sanctions and the provision of desperately needed aid if Iraq will co-operate; more carrot and less stick?

I am, etc.  
ANTHONY MEYER  
(Conservative MP, 1970-92),  
9 Cottage Place, SW3 2BE,  
November 22.

From Mr Alan Phillips

Sir, Surely Robin Cook's call for the removal of Saddam Hussein (Letters, November 20) is just an example of ethics cleansing?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN PHILLIPS,  
19 Theodora Grove,  
Epping, Essex CM16 4PU.  
alan@medinc.demon.co.uk  
November 20.

## Debt relief

From the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

Sir, The International Development Secretary, Clare Short, is wrong to suggest (report, November 19) that South Africa's "odious debts" — those that have arisen as a result of previous governments' policies — are a matter only for the South African Government.

Taking South Africa's scarce resources away from reconstruction and development and placing them in the pockets of Western and domestic creditors who were willing to finance apartheid repression is a matter for the people of South Africa too.

The Jubilee 2000 campaign is a movement of ordinary South Africans in the Churches and wider society, challenging those international and domestic financial institutions that place pressure on our Government to prioritise debt repayment over the reduction in poverty endured by millions of black South Africans.

One of the first acts of the new South African Government was to cancel the odious debts owed to us by Namibia. The Government did not do this at the request of the Namibians. Instead it acted unilaterally. We are simply asking South Africa's creditors to do the same in relation to odious debt.

Yours faithfully,  
JONGONKULU CAPE TOWN,  
Bishopscourt Claremont,  
Cape 7700,  
Republic of South Africa.  
November 23.

## CPS decisions

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Your report (November 21) that senior Scotland Yard officers are "absolutely shocked" by the Crown Prosecution Service's decision to discontinue charges arising from the Ron Davies affair. This reaction by unspecified police officers is mistaken.

In deciding whether to proceed, the first and fundamental criterion is the test of evidential sufficiency — i.e. is there a more than 50 per cent chance of a conviction on the available evidence?

It appears that the prospects of conviction in this case rely entirely upon the credibility of the evidence provided by Mr Davies. This has been shown to be suspect because of the various different accounts that, for whatever reason, Mr Davies gave to the police.

In these circumstances, the CPS is surely to be applauded rather than criticised for having faced reality and not wasted public funds in bringing a prosecution where the prospects of conviction were plainly very limited.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES,  
4 Kings Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4Y 7DL,  
November 22.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## EMU's effect on tax and business

From Mr Ben Hall

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky commits the very same crime for which he condemns Tony Blair (Blair's EMU con-trick, November 19).

Of course EMU has a political dimension. It was born out of a deal between Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand in return for French support for German unification. It will change the already constrained way in which we run our economy, and that is a political issue. But to say that the real agenda is "political and economic harmonisation" is untrue.

It makes perfect sense for there to be closer co-operation on other aspects of economic management if the euro is to be a success. EU member states co-ordinate their approaches to tackling unemployment, applying best practice to their own particular problems.

That does not mean we harmonise our employment policy. Co-operation on tax has nothing to do with forcing the rest of Europe up to German levels of cost. It is about getting rid of tax havens that unfairly distort competition. If Ireland wants to have a 10 per cent rate of corporation tax, that's fine. But it shouldn't be allowed to apply that rate only to foreign companies, in just one area like the Dublin docks.

Why does Mr Kaletsky not mention that no European leader advocates a centralised super-state for the European Union? Why is it that the declarations of one man, Oskar Lafontaine, are said to reveal the federalist intentions of the whole of the EU?

The term political union means consensus on policy and the capacity to pursue it. Maybe it is because that consensus has formed around a progressive, centre-left agenda that there is such a whiff of conspiracy about a single European government.

Yours faithfully,  
BEN HALL,  
(Research Director),  
Centre for European Reform,  
29 Tufton Street, SW1P 3QL.  
bhall@cer.org.uk  
November 19.

From Mr John Crisp

Sir, Gordon Brown insists that taxation decisions should remain under national control, following the introduction of the euro (report, November 23). Our Government endeavours to control inflation by a combination of interest rates and taxation.

If we join the euro, interest rate decisions will be taken elsewhere.

## Newbury bypass

From Mr Roger Sainsbury, FEng,  
President of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, Your leading article, "Lessons from Newbury" (November 19; see also report and photograph, November 16), raises important issues. You were right to suggest that this should not be the last bypass to be built in Britain (as some would like to think).

The push towards a more integrated approach to transport is admirable, but will not magically solve all issues of congestion; nor is any good purpose served by the mantra "never again".

We need to move away from passionate extremes and towards a balanced appraisal of the needs of towns, the needs of sustainability and the countryside, and the needs of people as travellers.

We need also to develop the machinery whereby balanced decisions can be taken without years of delay. In some cases the right thing to do will be to ease the plight of towns and of travellers by building a bypass, whereas in other cases transport problems may be solved in other ways.

We should not be afraid of building well designed bypasses provided that

each is the outcome of a thorough appraisal of the needs of the area.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CRISP,  
38 Pine Walk,  
Carshalton Beches,  
Surrey SM5 4HD,  
November 23.

From Mr Tom Burroughes

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky is surely right to stress the disastrous consequences for the City of a withholding tax imposed by the EU.

Not only would such tax harmonisation destroy jobs and business in London, it would also harm financial centres in much of continental Europe, and encourage investors to take their business outside the EU. One might have more sympathy for tax harmonisation if taxes ever had a chance of being cut as a result. That, however, never seems to happen.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM BURROUGHES,  
100 Belgrave Road, SW1 V2BJ.  
tombr@mtknews.com  
November 19.

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky asks why the British political debate on EMU, even amongst highly intelligent people, is drawn to irrelevant issues.

A visit to this club, whose members have won 19 Nobel Prizes to date, might enlighten him. To the British, EMU is not an intellectual subject but an emotional one. As one member put it: "Saying that you are against EMU is a bit like saying that you would rather have a holiday in Skegness than in St Tropez."

I have heard a successful stockbroker member say that he is longing for the day when he won't have to change money to visit continental European cities. And only the other day a member who was until recently the senior partner of a leading accountancy firm said to me: "But how can you possibly be against EMU — you who were born abroad and speak all those languages?"

There is, however, another side. General Galtieri was one example of a political leader who discovered that once the British do finally read the signals correctly they become lethal. Hence, perhaps, the origins of the phrase "perfidious Albion".

Yours faithfully,  
OSMAN STREATER,  
Savile Club,  
69 Brook Street, W1Y 2ER.  
osmanstreater@hotmail.com  
November 19.

each is the outcome of a thorough appraisal of the needs of the area.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER SAINSBURY,  
President,  
The Institution of Civil Engineers,  
1 Great George Street, SW1P 3AA,  
November 23.

From Mrs Fiona Hopkinson

Sir, With the opening of the long-awaited Newbury bypass the conclusion of the Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Traffic has been vindicated. The local population are exploring their new road with enthusiasm and a sense of novelty at the ease of travel. The current topic of conversation in these parts is: "Have you driven the bypass yet?"

I have watched with great amusement cars coming off the road and immediately rejoining it to travel in the opposite direction. Drivers and residents both have smiles on their faces. Whilst there are cars we need bypasses, whatever Simon Jenkins says ("Dead in the centre", November 20). Let this not be an end of it.

Yours faithfully,  
FIONA HOPKINSON,  
Dorner Cottage, East End,  
Newbury, Berkshire RG20 0AF,  
November 20.

## BNP school speech

From the Master of Dulwich College

Sir, In your report today, headed "Anger at far-right speech to school", you quote "condemnation" by the head of the Commission for Racial Equality of the decision by Dulwich College to invite the press officer of the British National Party to address the school's Society for the Study of Sociology.

The invitation was issued by a member of the society, a sixth-former of Asian background, and the meeting was one of a series exploring the extremes of British politics. Other recent speakers have come from the Socialist Workers Party and the Anti-Nazi League.

The 200 senior boys who attended the meeting behaved with the courtesy they would always accord a guest. I am delighted that they also vigorously attacked his policies and treated them with the intellectual contempt which they deserve.

The comments from the floor confirmed the excellent race relations which exist at the college. They may, one hopes, even have made some impression on the speaker. Those of all races who attended the meeting are undoubtedly strengthened in their opposition to racist policies of any kind.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM ABLE, Master,  
Dulwich College, SE21 7LD,  
November 24.

## Confused directions

From Mr Bernard Dunstan, RA

Sir, I was interested to read (Diary, November 23) that Alan Clark's grandfather commissioned a family portrait from "Lavery" (sic). Sir John Lavery's name did sometimes cause confusion. The old story goes that, at a reception, Lady Lavery gave her name to a flunkey who promptly replied in a whisper: "Yes, madam: down the corridor and the first door on the right."

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD DUNSTAN,  
10 High Park Road, Kew TW9 4BH.

## To those who say poems don't pay

From the Chairman of the Royal Society of Literature and others

Sir, We wish to protest against the decision by Oxford University Press to jettison its Oxford Poets' list, which it has maintained for more than half a century (report, "Anger over dead poets society", November 21). Such an abandonment by Britain's leading university publishers amounts to a major betrayal of contemporary literature.

The explanation given by the OUP that it is "increasingly difficult to give such specialisms the attention they deserve", and that "the Oxford Poets' list cannot by its nature contribute enough financially to justify the attention it needs", are deeply disingenuous. Oxford Poetry does not lose OUP money overall, since fees from its back list contribute valuably to the company's income.

We can only wonder what this famous publishing house believes is worthy of inclusion in that "core scholarly and educational publishing" on which it intends to concentrate.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HOLROYD  
(Chairman),  
PENELOPE FITZGERALD,  
SELINA HASTINGS,  
H. R. F. KEATING,  
PETER PORTER,  
The Royal Society of Literature,  
1 Hyde Park Gardens, W2 2LT,  
November 24.

From Ms Fiona Pitt-Kethley

Sir, I read with regret of the closure of yet another poetry list. Forty authors, most established names, now find themselves without a publisher.

The Oxford University Press is only the last in a long line of such closures. I was published by Sinclair-Stevenson until Reed axed their entire poetry list three years ago. Similar lists at Chatto and Methuen have also gone. The only major list left is that of Faber and few poets are Faber's cup of tea.

Those who phone small publishers like Carcanet, as I did recently, may find them too booked up for years ahead even to contemplate viewing another typescript.

Isn't it time that the Arts Council spent some lottery money on creating the literary equivalent of The Dogs Home Battersea for poor abused poets without owners?

To publishers I would say that poetry can be made to pay if it's published properly. Most of my collections sold several thousand copies when this was done.

Yours sincerely,  
FIONA PITT-KETHELEY,  
7 Ebenezer Road,  
Hastings TN34 3BS,  
November 23.

From the Chairman and the National Director of The Arvon Foundation

Sir, The closure of a contemporary poetry list by any publishing house is sad. The closure of a poetry list by a publishing house set at the heart of one of our major universities is shocking.

We write with a sense of sadness because many of the poets on the list of the Oxford University Press work for the Arvon Foundation as tutors on its writing courses, with huge benefit to the course participants and through them — writers, teachers, readers, or simply friends — the benefit of society at large.

We write with a sense of shock because the marketplace appears to be ruling in such unruly fashion in a place of distinguished learning.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN CHICHESTER-CLARK,  
Chairman,  
DAVID PEASE,  
National Director,  
The Arvon Foundation,  
Lumb Bank, Heptonstall,  
Hebden Bridge,  
West Yorkshire HX7 6DF,  
November 23.

## Oeufs en concrete

From Mrs Eileen Craine

Sir, I like Mr Eric Davies's idea (letter, November 20) of a recipe from Delia Smith using the present glut of dinosaur eggs.

And she wouldn't need to tell us how to test for freshness either.

Yours faithfully,  
EILEEN CRAINE,  
59a Crawford Street,  
London W1H 1HS,  
November 20.

## Signs of the times

From Dr Georges Ware

Sir, I understand Mr John Hope's disappointment on following the signpost to the mobile library and finding that it had moved on (letter, November 21).

But consider the anguish he might have been caused by a sign in Bristol which pointed to "Public Toilets — Approx. 3 Miles".

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGES WARE,  
85 Cranbrook Road,  
Bristol BS6 7BZ,  
November 23.















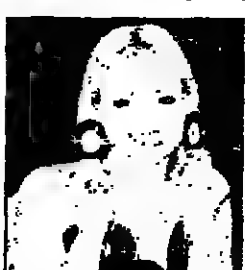
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

New measures in Queen's Speech follow opposition to watchdog's power

## Labour seeks to protect FSA

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

GROWING opposition to the controversial new powers proposed for the Financial Services Authority, the City's super-watchdog, has forced the Government to take unprecedented steps to ensure its safe passage through Parliament.

The Queen's Speech yesterday unveiled two revolutionary new measures to safeguard the passage of the Bill, which will establish the FSA as the most powerful financial regulator in the Western world.

The draft Bill has been widely criticised for proposing to give the FSA wide and sweeping powers but failing to make it fully accountable.

Senior City figures are concerned that the proposed legislation gives the new regulator too much power, and does not insist on a proper separation of its roles as investigator of market abuse, prosecutor of rule breakers, and disciplinary tribunal.

As a consequence, Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Com-

mons, will set up a cross-party committee drawn from both Houses to examine the Financial Services and Markets Bill before it reaches the Commons. This should ensure many of the more contentious proposals are agreed on before the Bill is put before MPs.

The Government also gave notice that if the Bill runs out of time at the end of the second session of Parliament next year, it

will seek cross-party approval to carry it over to the third session. This move is only possible because of new procedures introduced under the modernisation of Parliament. Normally a Bill which ran out of time would have to be reintroduced in the next session of Parliament.

The Bill will create a single regulator for the financial services industry, as well as a single ombudsman to handle consum-

ers' complaints. It will also give the FSA new wide-ranging powers to tackle market abuse.

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the joint committee would report around Easter, and then the Bill would begin its parliamentary stages "as soon as possible".

Mr Byers said that the Bill was likely to complete its legislative passage early in 2000. "The establishment of the joint com-

mittee and the possible carry-over of the Bill into the third Parliamentary session are historic and show the importance of this Bill and to getting financial regulation in this country right."

The Bill has already met opposition from the financial services industry, which believes that the new powers will allow the FSA to act as judge, jury and executioner.

A leading legal authority, An-

thony Lester QC, believes that the draft Bill will breach the European Convention on Human Rights. He has given warning that actions taken by the FSA under the prohibition on market abuse would be considered criminal, not civil proceedings, and as such would mean statements obtained under compulsion would not be permissible.

Philip Warland, Director-General of the Association of

Unit Trust and Investment Funds, yesterday called for an independent body to examine the FSA's findings and rule on whether they were fair.

Angela Knight, chief executive of the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, said the rules on the FSA's accountability were "inadequate".

Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA, said he was preparing to provide Parliament shortly with "a paper on how we propose to exercise our disciplinary powers".

Glyn Owen, the former Morgan Grenfell executive who was disciplined by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) for his failure to supervise Peter Young, said the new cross-party committee was "a step in the right direction".

Mr Owen had previously called for the legislation to be delayed in order for the draft Bill to be properly examined.

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### CDC SELL-OFF IN THE PIPELINE

THE Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the state-owned emerging market investment company, is to be part-privatised in a sell-off expected to value it at up to £500 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

The Government said the enabling legislation to convert CDC to a public company will soon be sent to the House of Lords. The Bill is expected to clear Parliament next summer, with the sell-off shortly after.

A minority stake will be retained by the Government. The stake is expected

to be about 40 per cent, which cannot be reduced below 25 per cent without fresh Parliamentary approval. The rest of CDC's capital is expected to be offered directly to City institutions.

CDC is keen for part-privatisation to escape Treasury borrowing rules, which have prevented any increase in its £1.6 billion loan book.

The Government also confirmed that it will be introducing a Contributions Agency Bill, which will merge the benefits agency with the Inland Revenue in a new single organisation.

### DIGITAL SIGNATURES GET GO-HEAD

CONSUMERS and businesses will soon be able to use "digital signatures" to buy goods via the Internet, under new legislation announced in the Queen's Speech (Chris Ayres writes).

New laws could also allow people to apply for official documents such as passports and driving licences online.

The legislation comes as companies as diverse as Tesco, Dixons and HMV are setting up "virtual shops" on the Internet. The most important legislation that the Government hopes to introduce concerns digital signatures. These

are unforgeable computer codes that can be used as proof of identity.

Under current UK law, many transactions are not fully completed until a signature is scribbled in ink on paper. In some cases, even faxed signatures cannot be used to complete transactions.

The Department of Trade and Industry said a new Bill would ensure "existing laws which insist on the use of paper would be swept away". It added the Bill was expected to become law in the next Parliament, and a consultative paper would be published by Christmas.

## Southgate struggles to dismiss rumours of EMI takeover

BY CHRIS AYRES

EMI, the troubled British music group, yesterday attempted to shrug off continued takeover speculation as it reported dismal half-year results, lightened only by resilient profits and sales in North American markets.

Shares of the company — whose acts include Robbie Williams and the Spice Girls — fell 4½p to 360½p, compared with a 1998 high of 607½p, but were spared further falls by speculation that it may be bought by a company such as Bertelsmann, the German media group, or Walt Disney.

Sir Colin Southgate, EMI's embattled chairman, said the company's problems had been caused mainly by "pretty awful" markets in Asia Pacific and Latin America. He was again forced to defend his decision to take a time-consuming outside job as chairman at the Royal Opera House.

He said that EMI was still searching for a chief executive, after the company's botched succession plans earlier this year resulted in the departure of Jim Efield, its US chief, with a £12.5 million payoff.

The company recorded an 11 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £69 million for the six months to September 30, although including losses from its partly owned HMV Media Group subsidiary, profits were closer to £42 million.

Sales at the company fell 3.4 per cent to £994 million, while earnings fell 16.4 per cent to 5.1p a share. An unchanged interim dividend of 4.25p will be paid on April 9.

Tempus page 30



Robbie Williams: EMI star



Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent Water, with Beanie the otter. Severn Trent and Wildlife Trusts launched a scheme in Nottinghamshire yesterday as part of a national campaign to encourage otters back to British rivers. Severn Trent also announced £176.5 million interims. Story 28, Tempus 30

## Ecclestone's bond snubbed by banks

BY JASON NISSE

THE marketing of the \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Group was dealt a blow yesterday when two leading City investment banks declined to join the syndicate backing the deal.

Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch said they had declined invitations to be co-lead managers by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, which is behind the bond. "We reached the decision after full consideration of the transaction," said a spokesman for Warburg last night.

Morgan Stanley insisted that it had not yet asked for any firm commitments. Banking sources said the decision not to join the syndicate came because

investors had raised numerous concerns about the bond issue.

These included the price at which it was being issued, the timing and the complexity of the deal as well as some unhappiness that Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, was not going to give a rating to the bond, though three other agencies had agreed to rate it.

"Bringing this issue to market at this time makes it difficult to get away," said one banker. "We would be more happy if Morgan Stanley had waited three months or so."

Commentary, page 29

## Hinchliffe firm seeks administration order

BY JASON NISSE

FEELGOOD LEISURE, the mail-order company founded only ten months ago by Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial South Yorkshire businessman, has applied to be placed in administration.

The move comes only three weeks after Mr Hinchliffe was banned from being a director for seven years over his behaviour when running En-Tout-Cas, a tennis court maker that collapsed in 1994.

It also comes less than a month after Kroydard Peninsular, Mr Hinchliffe's company that owned a Scottish estate, went into receivership. The Serious Fraud Office is still investigating the

collapse in 1996 of Facia, the shoe retailer Mr Hinchliffe ran.

Feelgood was formed with the backing of Chase Montagu, Mr Hinchliffe's investment company, to buy the assets of Freetime Sports, which went into receivership last year.

A month ago it gave a warranty in a legal action that it has £1 million of assets available. Yesterday Poppley & Appleton, the Sheffield accountants, confirmed that an application has been made to the courts for an administration order and Keith Oliver, Mr Hinchliffe's solicitor, said that the company may seek to make a deal with its creditors for a company's voluntary arrangement.

## Bovis plan hits shares in Atkins

SHARES in WS Atkins yesterday fell 51½p to 551½p on concern that the civil engineering consultancy will need a big share issue to fund its planned acquisition of Bovis, the construction manager, from P&O (Paul Durman writes).

With £1.85 billion turnover a year, Bovis is forecast to fetch £250 million or more. Mike Jeffries, chief executive of Atkins, said his company had £60 million of free cash, but was still to decide how to fund the deal.

Geoff Allum, of Henderson Crosthwaite, said investors felt Bovis would dilute the combined group's quality, adding: "You are bound to see... a lower rating simply because Atkins is so well perceived."

## ITV decision day

The future financial map of ITV will be set out today by the Independent Television Commission when it reveals the terms on which it is willing to renew 11 of the 16 licences, with loss-making GMTV looking for respite from its heavy financial burden. Page 28

## Cash call

Altours, the travel group, is raising £250 million from a bond issue to invest in further acquisitions in Europe or North America. The company has recently been linked with France's Nouvelles Frontières. Page 28, Tempus 30

Cartier



Love bangle and ring

Cartier  
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Commentary, page 29

## M&S board called to crisis meeting

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARKS & SPENCER has summoned its overseas directors to London for a crisis board meeting called to end the row over who is to run the company.

Paul Smith, who is based in Hong Kong, and Chris Litmoden, based in America, have flown to London for today's meeting. Sir Martin Jacoby, chairman of Prudential and a non-executive director of Marks & Spencer, has also returned from an overseas business trip.

Sources close to the company said that Sir Richard Greenbury has succeeded in persuading the non-executives that he should stay on as chairman. However, he has agreed to split his current job as chairman and chief executive. Sir Richard's preferred candidate for chief executive is Peter Salisbury, a managing director, who is expected to be selected. The company is still believed to be looking for a non-executive deputy chairman, with Sir Christopher Hogg mentioned as a possible candidate. Sir Christopher is chair-

man of Reuters and Allied Domecq and may decide he cannot accept the job because of other commitments.

Sir Richard is still attempting to persuade the board that it should stick to the original timetable and implement the changes next spring. If it goes down this path the company is likely to issue a holding statement in the hope of satisfying the institutional investors who have grown impatient with the company's silence over the issue. However some institutions said yesterday that they will not be content with a holding

statement and are pressing for immediate changes to the board.

The fate of Keith Oates, the current deputy chairman and joint managing director, remains unclear. One source said that he has persuaded the board that he was not behind the press leaks earlier this month. These sparked the crisis by suggesting he had made a direct appeal to the non-executive directors that they appoint him as replacement for Sir Richard.



## Anglian considers cashback

Anglian Group, the home improvements company, which ended the first half with net cash of £40.6 million, is considering returning cash to shareholders after failing to identify suitable acquisitions.

Strong cash generation saw cash balances rise by £6.7 million in the six months to September 26. Yesterday Eddie Boss, the chief executive, said that the company could opt for a payout to shareholders "if no alternative investment" was found within a reasonable period.

The company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £14 million, from £11.4 million, on sales that rose to £21.5 million, from £17.4 million. Earnings rose to 10.9p a share, from 8.7p, and the interim dividend is lifted to 4.2p a share from 4p.

**Sterling slides**  
Shares in Sterling Industries fell 30p to 213p yesterday after the industrial holding company reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £3.9 million, from £7.12 million. The interim dividend is held at 3.5p a share, payable from earnings that fell to 8.94p a share, from 17.59p. The company said full-year profits would fall short of the previous year's £12.76 million, because of the harsh trading conditions.

**Trifast bullish**  
Trifast, the manufacturer and distributor of industrial fasteners, said that it had made a good start to the second half. The company reported a rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £4.62 million, from £4.04 million. The interim dividend is lifted to 4.17p a share, from 3.75p.

**Benfield boosted**  
Benfield & Re Investment Trust, the insurance investment specialist, increased net asset value for the six months to September 30 to 139.9p per share, from 125.1p last time. The dividend was unchanged at 3p.

**Anglo Irish up**  
Pre-tax profits at Anglo Irish Bank, the third biggest bank in the Irish Republic, rose 49 per cent to £145.1 million (£40.9 million) in the year to September 30. A final dividend of 17.5p makes 14.85p, up 18 per cent.

**Ashquay listing**  
Ashquay, the property developer, is to seek a listing on the Irish Stock Exchange, after its purchase of an industrial development site on the outskirts of Dublin. It already has a full listing in London.

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Belgium Fr	61.58
Canada \$	2.687
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Hong Kong \$	13.617
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Netherlands Gld	0.668
New Zealand \$	3.362
Norway Kr	3.24
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USA \$	1.765

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# ITC spells out financial terms for future of ITV franchises

By RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

THE future financial map of ITV will be set out today by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) when it reveals the terms on which it is willing to renew 11 of the 16 licences.

Carlton, Central, Yorkshire and GMTV are among the ITV franchises being revalued. The ITC has promised that the total amount of money paid by ITV companies in special taxes to the Government will decline, to reflect the huge increase in competition in broad-

casting since the last franchise round in 1991.

The ITV system, dominated by the big three of Granada, Carlton Communications and United News & Media, pays more than £425 million a year to the Government, consisting of the annual sums that were bid for licences plus a tax on revenue. Analysts believe that when the renewal process is complete, the ITC may cut the total by £100 million a year.

One of the main beneficiaries could be United News & Media, whose chief executive is Lord Hollick, because the

company's three ITV licences are saddled with high bids in relation to their broadcast areas. United's Meridian bid for the South of England was £236.5 million plus 11 per cent of advertising revenue. Its Anglia franchise bid £17.8 million plus 7 per cent of revenue and HTV bid £20.53 million plus 2 per cent of revenue.

Things are less clear for the other companies. Carlton bid £43.17 million for its London franchise, plus 11 per cent of advertising revenue, but it now owns Central, which bid just £2,000 a year, although it

also has to pay 11 per cent of revenue. Granada has asked for relief on its Yorkshire franchise, which cost £37.7 million plus 7 per cent, and Tyne Tees, costing £15.06 million plus 2 per cent. However, at this stage, Granada has opted not to seek revaluation of either its Granada Television franchise (£9 million plus 11 per cent) or London Weekend Television (£7.58 million plus 11 per cent).

The ITV companies can choose to apply for the ten-year extension to their licences with effect from January 1

1999, 2000 or 2001. Granada appears to have opted to keep paying the relatively small amounts for two of the main franchises for a little longer.

Three other ITV companies that are not applying now are Scottish, Grampian and Channel.

Most attention will focus today on the fate of GMTV, the commercial breakfast station that ousted TV-am with a £34.6 million bid and 15 per cent of revenue. It has been a big loss-maker and without substantial tax relief its future existence may be at risk.

## Severn Trent unlikely to beat inflation

By ADAM JONES

SEVERN TRENT, the water supply and services group, said yesterday that profits are unlikely to rise by more than inflation in the next 18 months, sending the shares falling from £10.95 to £10.60.

It is also being sued for £11 million by Scottish Hydro-Electric over a cancelled computer systems contract.

Severn said its capital investment programme would slow profit growth — measured before interest, tax and millennium bug charges — to the level of inflation or below until 2000.

It also said that it had been in talks with its regulator, Ofwat, to try to prevent an enforced 15-20 per cent cut in prices in 2000. The cut was recommended in Ofwat's recent consultative document, which outlines a possible regulatory framework for 2000-05.

Severn met Ofwat last week and will continue to lobby for a smaller cut.

Vic Cocker, chief executive of Severn Trent, refused to say whether Severn would have to change its dividend policy after 2000 if the mooted tariff reduction went ahead.

He was announcing interim pre-tax profits of £176.5 million, down from £191.3 million

in the first half of last year. Turnover rose from £620.8 million to £662.6 million.

Severn's non-regulated water services arm was hit by a £5.5 million provision relating to the Scottish Hydro-Electric lawsuit. Severn was meant to supply Scottish Hydro-Electric with billing and customer service software. The system was supposed to be delivered last year and Scottish Hydro-Electric is blaming Severn for the delay.

Profits before interest and tax rose 26.1 per cent to £16.9 million at Biffa. Severn's waste services group, which was boosted by widening operations in Scotland and landfill site expansion.

Severn estimated that Year 2000 compliance work would cost £20-£25 million, with about £14 million charged against profits in the current year. Severn also said it was on course to meet leakage targets for 1999 and 2000.

Earnings per share were 45p, up from a loss of 41.2p last year, when the windfall tax was paid. An interim dividend of £2.47p (11.55p per share) has been declared.

Tempus, page 30



Stephen Box, finance director, left and David Jones

## National Grid plans future for Energis

By ADAM JONES

NATIONAL GRID is hoping for further rises in the value of Energis, the business telecommunications group it floated last year, before it sells its remaining 74.3 per cent stake.

Energis shares have nearly quadrupled in value since floating last December. David Jones, chief executive, said yesterday: "We think there is value still to come through. We see the stake being disposed of in three to five years' time."

He said it was unlikely that the stake would be sold through a placing of shares, since National Grid would want a premium to the prevailing market value.

Mr Jones was announcing interim pre-tax profits of £220.9 million, down from £225.2 million in the first half last year. Turnover fell from £780.1 million to £748.6 million, reflecting a £70 million reduction in revenue after the sale of the Energis stake.

Mr Jones said that National Grid was looking at electricity transmission infrastructure work in Brazil. It aims to derive 20 per cent of its earnings from outside its UK business within five years.

Earnings per share rose from 9.4p to 11p. An interim dividend of 5.25p (4.83p) has been declared.

## AOL tables \$4.2bn agreed takeover bid for Netscape

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AMERICA ONLINE, the biggest Internet service company, yesterday launched a \$4.2 billion (£2.5 billion) agreed takeover bid for Netscape, the Internet software maker.

The combined group will be a significant rival to Microsoft, the software company that is attempting to establish a commanding presence on the Internet.

Netscape shareholders will receive \$40.16 in AOL stock for each share. This represents a 4

per cent premium over the market price. Netscape shares have risen 30 per cent this month on takeover rumours.

Netscape has been the most important backer of the US Justice Department's antitrust suit against Microsoft, claiming its market position was hampered by Microsoft's bully tactics.

Citing the Netscape acquisition, Microsoft yesterday attacked the Justice Department. William Neukorn, legal

adviser to the software company, released a statement saying: "The deal shows how the competitive landscape in this industry can change overnight, making government regulation unnecessary and counter-productive."

AOL said it had also reached a three-year deal with Sun Microsystems to develop and market electronic commerce software systems that make it easy for companies to set up shop on the Internet.

## BT venture likely to face full inquiry

By RAYMOND SNOODY

BT SHARES fell 32p to 862p as it emerged that its \$10 billion (£6 billion) joint venture with AT&T of America is likely to face a full investigation by the European Commission.

The deal, which has been opposed by competitors including Cable & Wireless, would create a joint venture to embrace the international operations of BT and AT&T. AT&T has also agreed to market BT's Concert service for large corporations in America.

The European Commission

is expected to look closely at telecoms traffic between the UK and America. AT&T has an estimated 54 per cent share of the traffic to the UK from America and BT is believed to have a similar share in the opposite direction.

BT, which has not yet received confirmation of a full Brussels investigation, has always said it would take 12 months from the July announcement to get full regulatory approval in Europe and America.

## Brazil plays down privatisation scandal

PEDRO MALAN, the Brazilian Finance Minister, yesterday insisted that his country's massive privatisation programme would not be blown off course despite the resignation of two key ministers implicated in a financial scandal (Alasdair Murray writes).

Senhor Malan, who was in London on the first leg of a European tour, said that he was disappointed that "a criminal act" had forced the resignation of these "outstanding people", but

the Brazilian Government would continue with its privatisation plans.

Luiz Carlos Mendonça de Barros, Communications Minister, and his brother, Jose Roberto Mendonça de Barros, the Foreign Trade Minister, were forced to resign amid allegations they tried to influence the \$19 billion (£11 billion) sell-off of the state telecommunications company, Telebras.

The two ministers have been under fire since tape-recordings showing

them backing a bid from a consortium led by a former central bank governor were reported in the local press.

Brazil's privatisation programme forms a vital plank in its efforts to reduce the public sector deficit and restore financial stability. The Government hopes to raise about \$42 billion from sell-offs in the next two years.

Senhor Malan, who met Gordon Brown and Eddie George yesterday, is in Europe on a tour designed to

reassure creditors and investors that Brazil is committed to reform. Senhor Malan said that Brazil was benefiting from an "improving although shaky global environment" and had not needed to deplete its reserves further to defend the Brazilian currency, the real.

He said he hoped that European creditors would be persuaded that his Government's commitment to reform meant that credit lines to Brazilian industry could resume.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Powell Duffryn to rise more slowly

POWELL DUFFRYN, the ports and engineering group undergoing restructuring, lifted first-half profits 22 per cent, but said that the growth rate is expected to decline. In its half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits rose to £25.8 million, from £21.1 million, on turnover from continuing businesses of £181.4 million (£172.5 million). The interim payout stays at 8p.

The group said that it expects a "satisfactory" year, but that without winter revenue from oil operations, second-half growth would fall short of first-half increases. The group sold UKPP, its oil distribution arm, in May. The disposal programme, which began in 1996, is now almost complete, raising about £100 million. In the ports division, steady growth in non-steel cargoes at Teesside was offset by a continuing downward trend in steel exports. Profits from engineering rose to £101.6 million, from £91.8 million, despite the adverse effect of the strong pound. Powell Duffryn shares rose 5p, to 432p.

## R-R hints on UK costs

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aircraft engine maker, emphasised yesterday that it does not believe it will be necessary to move manufacturing work from Britain, even though it admits this would be an option if the UK were to introduce more costly labour laws. Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, told a meeting in Sydney that he did not think it likely that the UK would adopt the more restrictive employment frameworks of some other EU countries. However, he admitted that some production could be transferred to the US if the UK became too expensive.

## Rescue plan for Ethical

JOE BOZMAN and Rick Stewart, who recently left the board of SkypePharma, are leading a \$16 million (£9.6 million) rescue of Ethical Holdings, the drug delivery company that ran out of cash after abandoning a UK listing last year. Mr Bozman will be chairman and chief executive, while Mr Stewart will be president and chief operating officer. Ethical has been saved by backing from Eran Corporation of Ireland, which holds stock convertible into a 68 per cent stake. Ethical had losses of £16.8 million (£4.8 million loss) in the year to August.

## Athlone improves 17%

ATHLONE EXTRUSIONS, the London and Dublin listed company that processes polystyrene sheet and film, reported pre-tax profits up 17.5 per cent at £14.23 million (£3.68 million) for the year to September 30. Turnover was 21.8 per cent higher at £129.62 million. Earnings per share were 7.54p (6.84p) and the company declared a final dividend of 1.57p (1.43p), making a total yearly dividend of 2.36p (2.14p). Jack Hayes, chairman, said the UK market outlook was uncertain but the group was "aiming for a year of growth".

## Cosalt's sixth advance

COSALT, which supplies safety equipment, workwear, holiday homes and fibres, has reported its sixth successive year of growth. Pre-tax profit was up 22 per cent, at £5.62 million, with turnover 7 per cent higher, at £101.0 million. Earnings per share were 31.2p (25.1p) and the dividend is being increased by 18 per cent, to 13.25p. The company said that the results were strong, but noted that "difficult economic conditions" had meant that "the performance of some of the businesses has inevitably been adversely affected".

## Cancer charity's stake

THE Imperial Cancer Research Fund is set to have a £25 million stake in Antisoma, a biotechnology company that is hoping to raise up to £12 million by floating on Europe's Easdaq market. Antisoma's only product in clinical trials is a treatment for ovarian cancer developed from work at the ICRF. After a licensing deal in May, the Fund's technology transfer arm became a 13.6 per cent shareholder in Antisoma, which is expected to be valued at up to £30 million. The stock market revival has enabled the company to seek a listing.

## VTech 'unscathed'

VTECH, the London-listed Hong Kong electronics group that specialises in children's computers, lifted its pre-tax profits by 50 per cent, to US\$58 million (£35 million), and said that it had remained "relatively unscathed" by the Asian economic crisis because more than 96 per cent of its sales revenue comes from North America and Europe. Sales rose 24 per cent, from \$407 million to \$506 million. Earnings per share rose by 48 per cent, to 23.3 cents. The interim dividend rises to 5p, from 4p. The shares gained 30p, to 240p.

## Steady progress at Sims

SIMS FOOD GROUP, suppliers of meat and poultry, said it was making "steady progress" as it reported pre-tax profits up 6 per cent at £1.1 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover from continuing operations was unchanged at £20.5 million, while earnings per share grew to 2.2p (2.1p). Sims is resuming dividend payments and declared an interim dividend of 0.25p. Overall volumes were 10 per cent ahead of the comparable period last year. Strong growth from burgers and cooked and assembled products was offset by lower selling prices.

## Gains for Vibroplant

VIBROPLANT, the plant and tool hire group, reported that pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 had jumped to £2.04 million, from £820,000 last time. Turnover was £26.98 million (£23.94 million) and earnings per share were 3.70p (1.23p). The dividend is unchanged at 1.4p. Jeremy Pilkington, chairman and chief executive, said: "We have not seen any sign of deterioration in trading within our markets. We expect a satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole."



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# No holding place for M&S



## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

For two weeks, Marks & Spencer has assumed a lofty silence about the extraordinary debate over the leadership of the company. This may have been deemed the most dignified way to deal with a most undignified situation but it cannot be allowed to continue. Today's board meeting must be followed by a statement to the world that exists beyond the upper echelons of Baker Street. Investors and staff need to be reassured that the non-executive directors are earning their fees and sorting out the mess.

Since it became apparent that Sir Richard Greenbury's continued domination of the company was, to put it politely, the cause of internal unrest, rumours have swirled to fill the information vacuum. If the directors feel that they can quell those rumours with a mere holding statement, they are mistaken. A continuation of the status quo cannot be in the best interests of the company or any of its dependants.

The eruption of the succession problem at the top of M&S could hardly have come as a complete surprise to the body of heavyweights who pack the company's boardroom. More than a year ago they fished around the delicate issue of whether Sir Richard should be allowed to maintain his Cadburyally incorrect stance as both chairman and effective chief executive before diplomatically deciding not to cause offence and to leave Sir Richard's role untouched. But at that stage

they must have begun to make plans as to what arrangement might best serve the evolving needs of the company.

The understandable ambitions of Keith Oates to accede to the top job had percolated through to the City long before they appeared as a job application in the Sunday press. It would not take a non-executive director with the credentials of Dame Stella Rimington to pick up such information.

It is now irrelevant how the job ad. was placed: Mr Oates may have convinced his board that he is blameless in that regard. But it is difficult to see how he and Sir Richard, not renowned for his forgiving nature, might together comprise the team to happily and constructively lead M&S out of its current difficulties. These are not life-threatening, but they do require the full attention of top management. One or other man must surely go and the odds must favour Sir Richard to stay but within a redefined structure.

There is no need, however, for the company to be precipitated into immediately appointing a chief executive: perhaps an organisation with the scale and reach of M&S needs a different top tier. A first stage would be the appointment of a new, non-executive, deputy chairman to

stand between Sir Richard and his executives.

Rumours still favour Sir Christopher Hogg, although he is well occupied elsewhere. Self-appointed headhunters are marauding the ranks of senior retailers to dig out suitable candidates. Lord MacLaurin was not amused when they rang him. If only to put a stop to such mercenary activities, M&S needs to act decisively now.

### No business like e-business

Electronic commerce via the Internet must have seemed irresistibly trendy when Peter Mandelson was scrabbling around for his department's legislative contribution to modernising Britain. And why not? Any new market, medium or movement needs rules if it is to grow beyond the experimental and reach its full potential.

Private initiatives such as the Secure Electronic Transaction

protocol sponsored by Visa and MasterCard in 1996 can do most of the work, but governments have to help, too.

Once states start enabling other people to do things, however, the danger is that they will fall for the temptation to exercise central control. When bureaucrats eye the Internet, they must be paralysed with worry at the explosively free flow of information they find there. While freedom of information laws hang fire, there is a new freedom of information to clamp down on.

Mr Mandelson does not seem able to resist temptation any better than old-style politicians. The first part of his proposed Bill is an enabling measure that business has been asking for. In future, contracts could be made electronically, substituting an encoded super pin number for a pen and ink signature. You don't have to be a techie to see that secure digital signatures could make a lot of business safer as well as easier. Good marks.

Somehow, however, the urge

to control has crept in. The second half of the proposed Bill is liable to be about giving the police and other authorities keys to break the virtually hack-proof codes now routinely used to encrypt banking and other business traffic on the Internet.

The temptation is great. Criminal networking, money laundering or child pornography can as easily be scrambled as the day's money market trades. US laws are already imposing some restrictions on encrypting firms.

If codes become insecure, however, the potential for hackers and swindlers is immense. Nor is it theoretical. Five years ago, Russian hackers lifted £10 million from an international bank.

Sadly, copies of codes given to the security services for safe keeping would be guaranteed to leak, let alone, as was suggested, any entrusted to the local post office.

If security were again compromised, use of the Internet would start to shrink again instead of expanding exponentially. Perhaps the DTI understands that be-

cause proposals have deliberately been left vague. Even registration of encrypters might be voluntary. Business will be watching for the detail of an upcoming Green Paper with mixed feelings, as will those who view any unregulated sector as a slash and burn farmer views virgin forest.

### In search of the right formula

David Crossland blithely launched his £250 million bond issue on to the market without feeling any need to explain exactly what he intends to do with the money. Suffice to say that he wants to be ready to pick up the bargains he expects to come his way as the holiday industry continues to consolidate, and he reckons this money is much cheaper than equity finance.

Airtours shares shuddered as profit takers had their way, but the chaps at Morgan Stanley could have been forgiven a jealous twinge or two as they witnessed Mr Crossland's easy confidence. They are working flat out to persuade the market that the £2 billion Formula One bond will make the finishing post. Despite a miserable reception from normally receptive syndication

desks, the Morgan Stanley team is not giving up yet. The sales pitch is now being targeted squarely at individual investing institutions, who might be persuaded that the question marks over the future income stream of Formula One can be adequately answered and that even if the EU's cartel-busting Karel Van Miert does his worst, he cannot stop the money flowing, eventually, to the business.

This is the team that managed to raise CPA from the near dead so it is not prepared to give up on the very much alive Formula One yet. But the coupon necessary to attract investors to the issue will have to be generous if it is to succeed. There must come a point when, unlike Mr Crossland, Mr Ecclestone has to ask whether the price is right.

### FSA in limbo

AT LEAST one FSA bill is to go ahead. Supermarkets will be relieved not to have to fund the Food Safety Agency, but the Financial Services Authority is an even more problematic organisation. The complications inherent in rolling all regulators into one necessitate an agonisingly long process during which the FSA has responsibility but not power. The organisations now gathered under its Canary Wharf umbrella will have to muddle through this prolonged period in legislative limbo. The risk is that a major financial mess might slip through the cracks.

## Airtours to raise £250m in bond issue

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

AIRTOURS, the travel group, is raising £250 million from a bond issue to invest in further acquisitions in Europe or North America.

The company is already in touch with a number of companies that it might acquire, and has recently been linked with France's Nouvelles Frontières.

Tim Byrne, finance director, said that France, Belgium and Holland were the markets in which it was most likely to invest.

The issue of convertible bonds comes on the back of a strong set of preliminary results that show group pre-tax profit in the year to September 30 up 17 per cent to £140.3 million.

Shares in the company, which invested £210 million on acquisitions last year, fell 25p to 410p yesterday, however, on profit-taking and residual worries about the poor performance last year of its Scandinavian business.

The problems in Scandinavia led to its continental European operating profits falling

from £38.5 million to £16.3 million. Turnover in that division rose from £834.5 million to £848.1 million.

Mr Byrne said that overcapacity had been stripped out of the Scandinavian business. Trade had already picked up by the fourth quarter and in the first few weeks of the current year was 17 per cent ahead.

In the UK, winter bookings are up by 6 per cent, while for the summer they are 5 per cent ahead of last year. Supply of holidays is being kept tight, but the company said that it had seen little sign that the downturn in consumer spending was affecting its business.

The bonds are due in 2004. Their interest rate, expected to be between 5.25 per cent and 5.75 per cent, will be fixed on or before December 15.

On fully diluted earnings per share of 22.98p (19.68p) the company will pay a final dividend of 6p, giving a total for the year of 7.5p.

Tempos, page 30

### Cellnet is primed for sales leap

By RAYMOND SNODDY  
MEDIA EDITOR

CELLNET, the UK's second-largest mobile telephone operator, said yesterday that it expected to sign more than 500,000 subscribers in the current quarter, setting a new quarterly record.

Peter Erskine, managing director, said that the boom in the mobile telephone market continued. He forecast that 12.6 million Britons would have mobile phones by the end of this year, up from 8.4 million at the end of 1997. The total would rise to more than 15 million by the end of 1999.

Mr Erskine, who was appointed earlier this year to revitalize Cellnet, said: "We think the fact that there has been a market boom this year has a lot to do with Cellnet getting back into contention."

Cellnet, jointly owned by BT and Securicor, reported a 19 per cent rise in turnover, to £666 million in the six months to September 30. However, operating profits fell by £8 million, to £98 million, because of the scale of development.

### Merger of paper duo to cost jobs

By CARL MORTISHED  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS EDITOR

THOUSANDS of jobs are under threat as two heavyweights in the global paper industry announced plans to combine their businesses in an effort to halt the slide in prices.

International Paper, the largest US player, announced a \$6.6 billion (£3.97 billion) merger with rival Union Camp. Only hours earlier, Smurfit Stone Container Corporation revealed plans to shut down almost a fifth of its mills with the loss of 3,600 jobs.

Smurfit Stone is the creation of last year's takeover of Stone Container by the US arm of Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish packaging group. The quoted US company will take a charge of up to \$350 million in the fourth quarter.

The deals are likely to prompt further consolidation as paper firms seek to position themselves in dreadful markets. International Paper yesterday said the merger with Union Camp would result in \$300 million in cost savings.

## Tomb Raider film to benefit Eidos

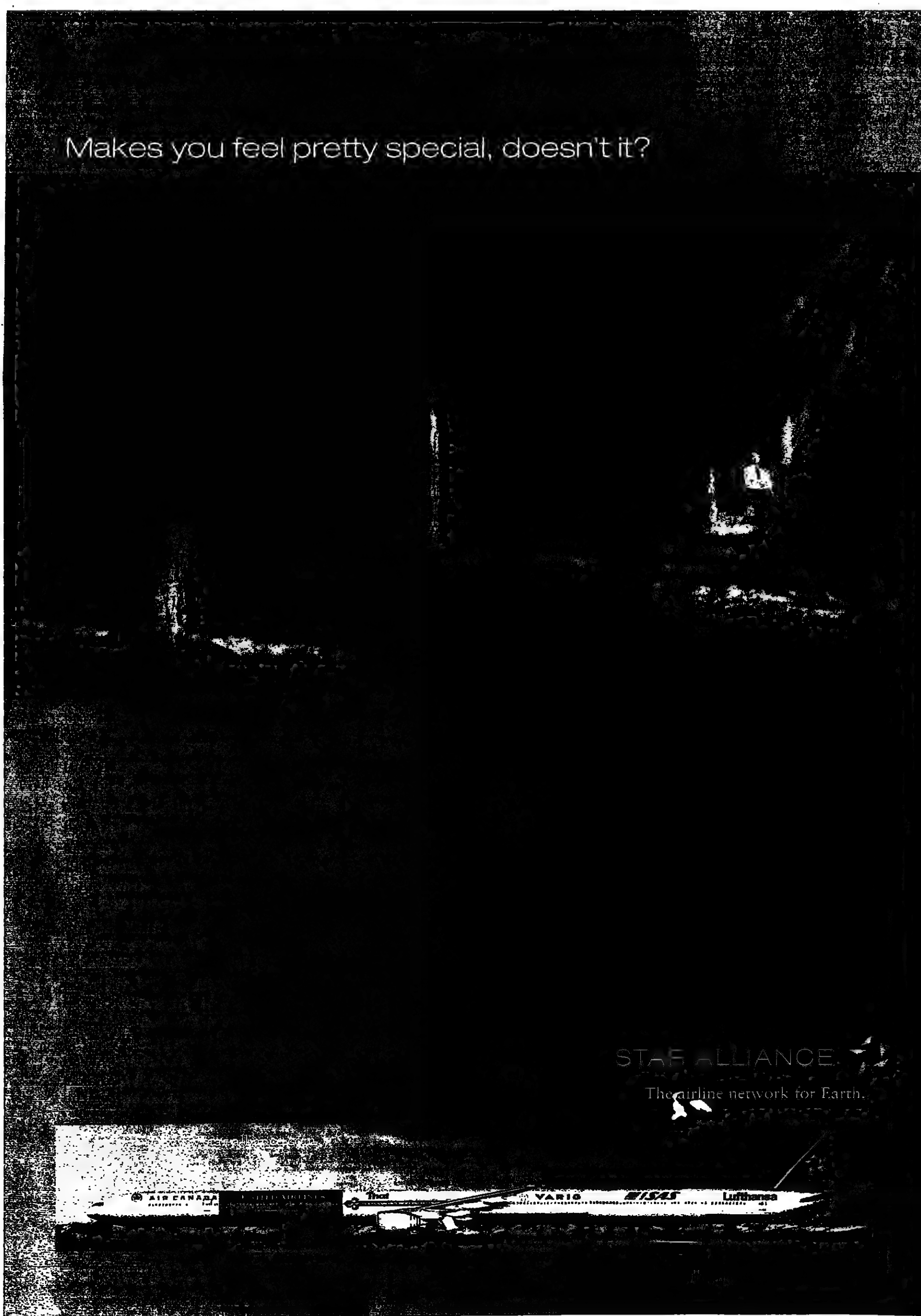
EIDOS, the computer games company, yesterday said it expected to receive at least \$30 million (£18 million) of free publicity from the film adaptation of its Tomb Raider title, which features the racy animated heroine Lara Croft (Chris Ayres writes).

The film is expected to be released late next year. However, Charles Cornwall, chief executive, would not disclose

what percentage of box office and merchandising revenues Eidos would receive.

Eidos reported a slightly increased pre-tax loss for the six months to September 30 of £18.9 million, including unexpected marketing costs of £1.9 million. Sales rose 118 per cent from £22 million to £47.6 million, while losses per share deepened from 70.5p to 80.6p. No dividend will be paid.

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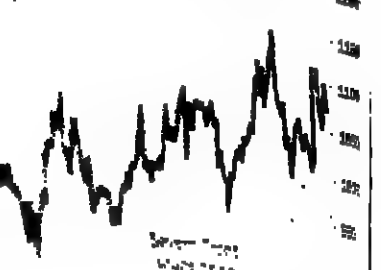


US of spice

...its poor much to this, especially now its ... Gills, has seen one ... of a UN ambassador ... of four members, but ... of view of LMI pro ... to have had his day ... the manage ... the business can ... required to find ...

...confidence in the ... for that business. ... the interim result was ... expectations, large ... of higher interest ... With so much hangover ... the official price review ... can have to get ... and in surprise. Divided ... may come, too, but for ... the yield is attractive ... hold on.

SOLD DOWN THE RIVER



Source: Times

...the next it is up 200. London, New York, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt: it does not matter on which market you trade, volatility has increased significantly in the past three years, and this year in particular. Take the supposed great bear market of the middle of this year. According to Ned Davis Research, the Wall Street analyst, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.3 per cent between July 17 and August 31, when the market started rising again, wiping out all the mid-year losses. This bear market — prompted by worries about Asian economic flu — lasted just 45 days; that is ten days less than the bear market that followed the October crash in 1987 (which many feel was no more than a market correction anyway) and one ninth of the average length of bear markets this century, which is 418 days. But why is the market so volatile? According to Phillip Collins, UK market strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, volatility often means bad news. "Usually we see this sort of pattern of volatility at the end of an equity cycle," he says. "It could be the harbinger of a fairly major market reverse."

However, Mr Collins points out that the merchants of doom and gloom — notably Phillips & Drew Fund Management — have been largely proven wrong by the ability of the markets to recover their losses rapidly over the past few months. And the sudden upturn in corporate activity on both sides of the Atlantic — with Deutsche Bank buying Bankers Trust, Siebe buying BTX, Tyco International buying AMP and Netscape linking with AOL — shows that the corporate world thinks economic conditions are more stable.

US nerve returns with a vengeance

So, the Dow Jones industrial average is back at a record high, closing at 9,374.27 on what is being dubbed Manic Monday. In one of the most spectacular rallies in Wall Street history, the Dow has jumped 26 per cent since its low of 7,400 in the darkly ominous days of late August after Russia's default and devaluation. Abby Joseph Cohen, Goldman Sachs's super bull, so roundly vilified over the past few months, has been vindicated.

Inevitably, there are sceptics who argue that earnings multiples are staggeringly high on any historical perspective and that corporate America simply will not be able to justify them as the world economy slows down, as virtually everybody expects, next year. This is most true of manufacturers in industries where there is dramatic global overcapacity in a world of shrinking demand for such things as steel, microchips and cars. In support of their concerns came yesterday's news of a sharp fall in US

corporate profits in the third quarter to stand 6.2 per cent lower than a year ago. This is the largest year-on-year decline since 1989. The sceptics' instinct is, quite simply, that it is not rational — in fact it is irrational exuberance — for stocks to jump to record highs when the world economy has undergone a huge and unexpected shock and when large parts of the world remain in deep recession and there remain risks of after-shocks. Could economic Armageddon so easily have been headed off by the mere fact of a 75 basis points cut in American interest rates? Probably not, and the great danger of the current moment is that the Fed looks at Wall Street and stops cutting. It is the Fed's willingness to act decisively in easing monetary policy that has led to

such a swift restoration in confidence and it needs to keep expectations of lower interest rates alive. The overwhelmingly redeeming feature of the current situation is that, if good sense prevails, the Fed has absolute freedom to go on easing because there is no inflation about. And, if that did not prove enough, the Administration, in the extraordinarily unusual position of running a budget surplus, is free to loosen fiscal policy. With both the tools of demand management available, there is no possible excuse for a recession. As Rudi Dornbusch of MIT said in July, "For policymakers living without inflation and with budget surpluses, a recession is just an unforgivable mistake."

As long as the big picture is right, the rest is up to companies and consumers. The Goldilocks economy was based on a virtuous circle in which stock market appreciation encouraged corporate America to invest furiously. Productivity gains fuelled earnings. Earnings pushed the stock market and so on. The question of whether the stock market can continue rising will depend heavily on the continuation of this behaviour.

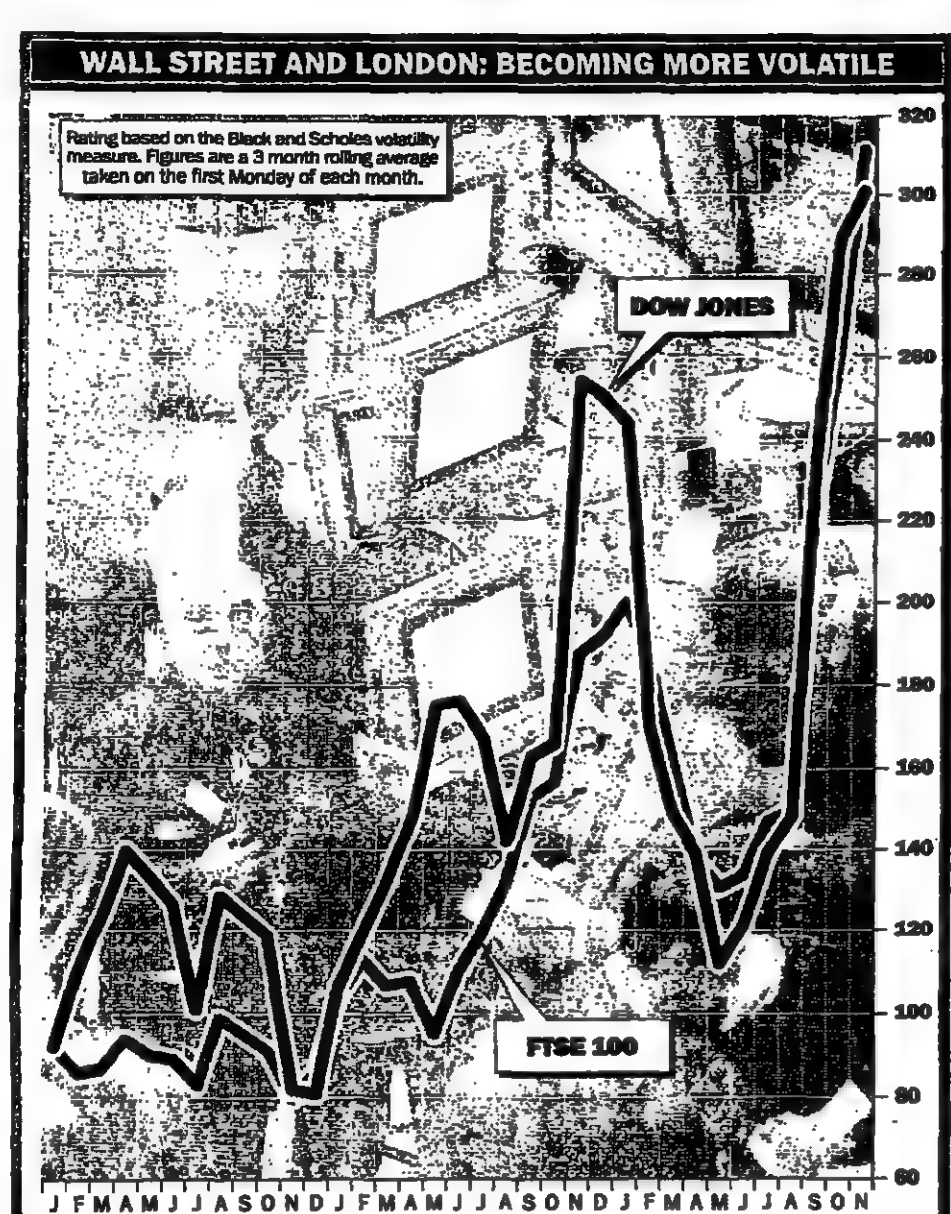
Yesterday's US GDP figures, which showed growth revised up to 3.9 per cent in the third quarter from 3.3 per cent estimated previously, contained one worrying aspect. Business investment in new equipment fell 1.1 per cent, this measure's first decline in nearly seven years. However, the third quarter saw a catastrophic decline both in stock values and confidence and, with the market back to its previous peak, investment could easily turn again. This week's wave of mega-mergers is not suggestive of a corporate America on the defensive.

This leaves the question of the American consumer. Consumers have been saving virtually nothing, and spending has shown no sign of slowing. Yesterday's figures showed spending increasing at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent in the third quarter. Consumer spending has been driven by rising stock prices. Household net worth has jumped by 35 per cent since 1994. There is also evidence, as noted by Matthew Wickens, of ABN Amro, that US consumers are financing current spending by taking profits on their equity gains rather than spending their accumulated capital. Mr Wickens argues that, if there were another shock to confidence, some of the spending would cease but saving would not have to rise sharply because accumulated household capital has not been touched. Now that the equity market has come back from the dead, there is every prospect that consumers will go on spending on the back of their stock market winnings.

Rules have changed for the world's stock market investors

Jason Nissé and Robert Cole on the reasons behind the rising volatility in recent years

What is the poor investor to do? One day the market falls 150 points, the next it is up 200. London, New York, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt: it does not matter on which market you trade, volatility has increased significantly in the past three years, and this year in particular. Take the supposed great bear market of the middle of this year. According to Ned Davis Research, the Wall Street analyst, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.3 per cent between July 17 and August 31, when the market started rising again, wiping out all the mid-year losses. This bear market — prompted by worries about Asian economic flu — lasted just 45 days; that is ten days less than the bear market that followed the October crash in 1987 (which many feel was no more than a market correction anyway) and one ninth of the average length of bear markets this century, which is 418 days. But why is the market so volatile? According to Phillip Collins, UK market strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, volatility often means bad news. "Usually we see this sort of pattern of volatility at the end of an equity cycle," he says. "It could be the harbinger of a fairly major market reverse."



Rating based on the Black and Scholes volatility measure. Figures are a 3 month rolling average taken on the first Monday of each month. Source: DIXSTREAM

porate world thinks economic conditions are more stable. The fact is that many economic experts believe that the rules of market have changed. A couple of years ago the perception was that inflation had been slain and the West was entering an era of gradual but low growth, with many firms relying on the Far East as the engine for an acceleration in income. But the economic woes of Asia have punched that balloon and now investors are struggling to adjust. "Many people had factored in Asia with a poor level of information," says Mr Collins. Worried by unpredictability,

many investors turned to cash. But the market rises in the first half of this year and then since September have caught many out. Thomas Galvin, chief investment officer of Donaldson Luick & Jensen, says that many fund managers are under pressure to "be in stocks, not cash", adding: "You've got a number of clients saying 'I missed a big rally, I was in cash'."

This pressure showed when Gartmore, the NatWest investment arm which had been bearish for nearly a year, broke and started reinvesting in the summer, just as the US market turned against equities.

Marshall Acuff, chief equity strategist at Salomon Smith Barney, argues that as investors are uncertain about the long-term direction of markets, they overreact to short-term factors. "The volatility is often caused by a perceptual shift, rather than a fundamental problem. There are often perceptions of change even though something hasn't really changed." "Often, there are concerns about the future direction of interest rates, earnings growth and problems with credit such as the Russian default and the silver bubble. But in the US the favourable monetary environment, which involves interest rates, liquidity and growth in money supply, has remained constant. It is the glue that holds the market together and keeps it coming back despite intervals of worry."

According to many observers, the biggest single motivating force behind the pricing of shares is the amount of cash coming into the market. The weight of money — largely as a result of people investing more in their pension funds as they realise the State will not provide for them in their old age — has driven share prices higher and a mass retrenchment in terms of liquidity is able to undermine prices alarmingly and quickly. But at the same time, the appetite for risk has declined in many quarters. One result has been that those larger piles of cash have gravitated towards the shares of bigger companies. DKB reckons that 96 per cent of money allocated to the London market by the large investment firms is invested in FTSE 100 stocks.

The growth of index tracking has reinforced the trend because, as an investment management strategy, index tracking is separated from the need to analyse a company's fundamental health. Size is increasingly seen as the only important attribute, and by following the constituent shares making up leading indices those risk-averse, size-hungry investment appetites have found reassurance. In the long term this will lead to much less volatility, though Mr Collins argues that the move towards index tracking has contributed to some of the price fluctuations during this adjustment period.

One of the reasons why the big funds are rushing to index tracking is that it is harder to find a way of beating the market. Stock markets have taken to more tightly regulating the release of information which, while undoubtedly right in terms of financial justice, has also increased the propensity to jerky movements in share prices. In the past a piece of bad or good news could seep into the collective market consciousness over a period of time and lead to a gradual adjustment in share prices. However, the shift towards tighter control of data has led to more surprises.

Additional reporting by Kimberly McDonald and Manus Costello.

Squaring up to revival of Roundhouse

Every day, for more than 30 years, Torquil Norman passed the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm on the way from his Hampstead home to his office in Central London. In that time Norman's fortunes and the Roundhouse's went in virtually opposite directions. Norman left the City to set up Bluebird Toys and turn it into a £100 million company, while the Roundhouse declined from being one of the most famous arts and music centres of the 1960s to a crumbling, white elephant that nobody knew what to do with.

When he left Bluebird in 1996 Norman decided to put £6 million into revitalising the Roundhouse. He bought it for close to £3 million and yesterday unveiled his plans to turn it into a giant arts, media and music centre used for everything from educating disadvantaged children to corporate entertainment and product launches. It is an ambitious project. The Roundhouse was originally built as a railway repair yard and then served as a gin warehouse. The roof has to be replaced to stop the noise from concerts disturbing the neighbours. While the builders are doing this, they will put in a new area called The Lid — a flexible venue holding up to 400 people and able to stage anything from jazz concerts to corporate events. The ground floor will remain as a theatre, holding up to 1,300 people, while the basement will be a community arts centre, with a theatre, recording studios, television and radio broadcast facilities and an area for fashion design and manufacture. The scheme will cost more than £30 million and Norman is looking for about £7.5 million of business sponsorship, £4.5 million of National Lottery money and £12.5 million from Gerry Robinson's Arts Council. Norman has only just started chasing businesses for the cash, but he expects the Arts Council and National Lottery Fund to rule in the spring.

There have been suggestions that Railtrack, having a historic relationship with the Roundhouse and having generated quite a bit of will in the area through its engineering works, might become a sponsor, though no approach has yet been made. If Norman does not secure the money, he is pretty sanguine. "We can sell it off as a nightclub," he said. "We can give them the architect's plans of how to soundproof the building and I'm sure it is worth more than it cost us."

Norman's route from businessman to arts benefactor follows an increasingly well-trodden path. But unlike Granada's Robinson or Sir Colin Southgate — who has been pilloried for trying to rescue the Royal Opera House and save EMI at the same time — this is a full-time task for Norman. "I was supposed to retire, but I don't believe in the concept," he said. For Norman, aged 64, this is a business. However, instead of generating profits and share price performance, this is about helping children with poor education and poor opportunities in life to make something of themselves. "This Government is always going on about tackling social exclusion," said Norman. "Well, we're doing something here."

Samba spin

GORDON Brown should stop worrying that Britain's absence from the first stage of monetary union is going to mark the end of Britain's economic influence abroad. If the performance of Pedro Malan, the Brazilian Finance Minister, in London yesterday is anything to go by, Mr Brown's peculiar turn of phrase is rapidly becoming the preferred common currency of the world's economic policymakers.

Senior Malan's wonderfully fluent English was peppered with such Brownian terms as "pursuing a course of stability" and the ubiquitous "prudent and cautious" approach to public finances. Despite the conservative rhetoric, the Minister also appears to have been taking lessons from the Treasury on economic forecasting, claiming that Brazilian growth might better his own forecast of a 1 per cent contraction, although most independent economists are predicting the economy will shrink by as much as 3 per cent next year.



Senior Malan: a Latin twist to Brown's policies

Not surprisingly, Senior Malan claims to have an excellent "personal relationship" with his British counterpart. IN search of inspiration for some original Christmas gifts, I flick through back copies of Design in View, the Patent Office journal in which newly registered designs are published. One that catches my eye is a trouser brace by Richard Kew & Sons that incorporates a telephone holster — sure to become a big hit among the more gung-ho City traders.

Card games IT'S that time of year again, when creative types start dreaming up off-the-wall ideas



for corporate Christmas cards. (Reindeer and robins are out.) The Partners, the irritatingly named company that created the b2 logo for Barclays, has sent me details of some of its "entertaining and innovative" ideas. One, for Lewis Silkin, the media law firm, is a card attached to a branded yo-yo with the catchline Yo-ho-ho.

All terribly clever, but I prefer Lewis Silkin's card last year that took the form of a CD of staff belting out Jingle Bells. "They weren't too bad, actually," says one recipient. Solvent sigh AS the slowing economy starts to provide more work for receivers there was no shortage of vultures — sorry, insolvency practitioners — in attendance

at yesterday's annual Insolvency Conference at The Brewery. Speaker Jeremy Goldring, partner at Dobb Lupton Alsop, the City solicitors, conceded that a decline in growth was likely to be a big blow to the construction and manufacturing sectors, but he cautioned the audience against getting too excited. "A recession in the sense of a substantial number of corporate failures, is not just around the corner," he cautioned. His clear message was that, for the time being, the profession is going to have to content itself with turnaround work that, of course, is far less lucrative than a good old-fashioned receivership. I'm told there was an almost audible sigh of disappointment from the auditorium.

WARBURG Dillon Read is preening itself after the latest Edel Smaller Companies Sector Survey, in which investment managers are asked to evaluate brokers on the quality of the services they provide. The firm picked up a total of four awards, including one for Marcus Chorley who was named best brokers' salesperson. Mr Chorley was always guaranteed at least one vote — his wife Lesley is a smaller companies fund manager with Legal & General. (If he hears that the couple are also to be congratulated on the birth last week of a son.)

MD's move

GRESHAM Trust, the venture capitalist, has had a management shake-up. Trevor Jones, managing director for seven years, was told yesterday that he is to be replaced by Paul Marston-Smith, who joined last year from St. Paul Manduca, Gresham's chairman, says: "These things are never easy. Trevor made a huge contribution but it's time for a change as the business moves forward."

He said the firm was looking to build on its performance over the past six months, during which it has signed six deals worth more than £100 million. DOMINIC WALSH

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CHANGING TIMES



## Shares lose early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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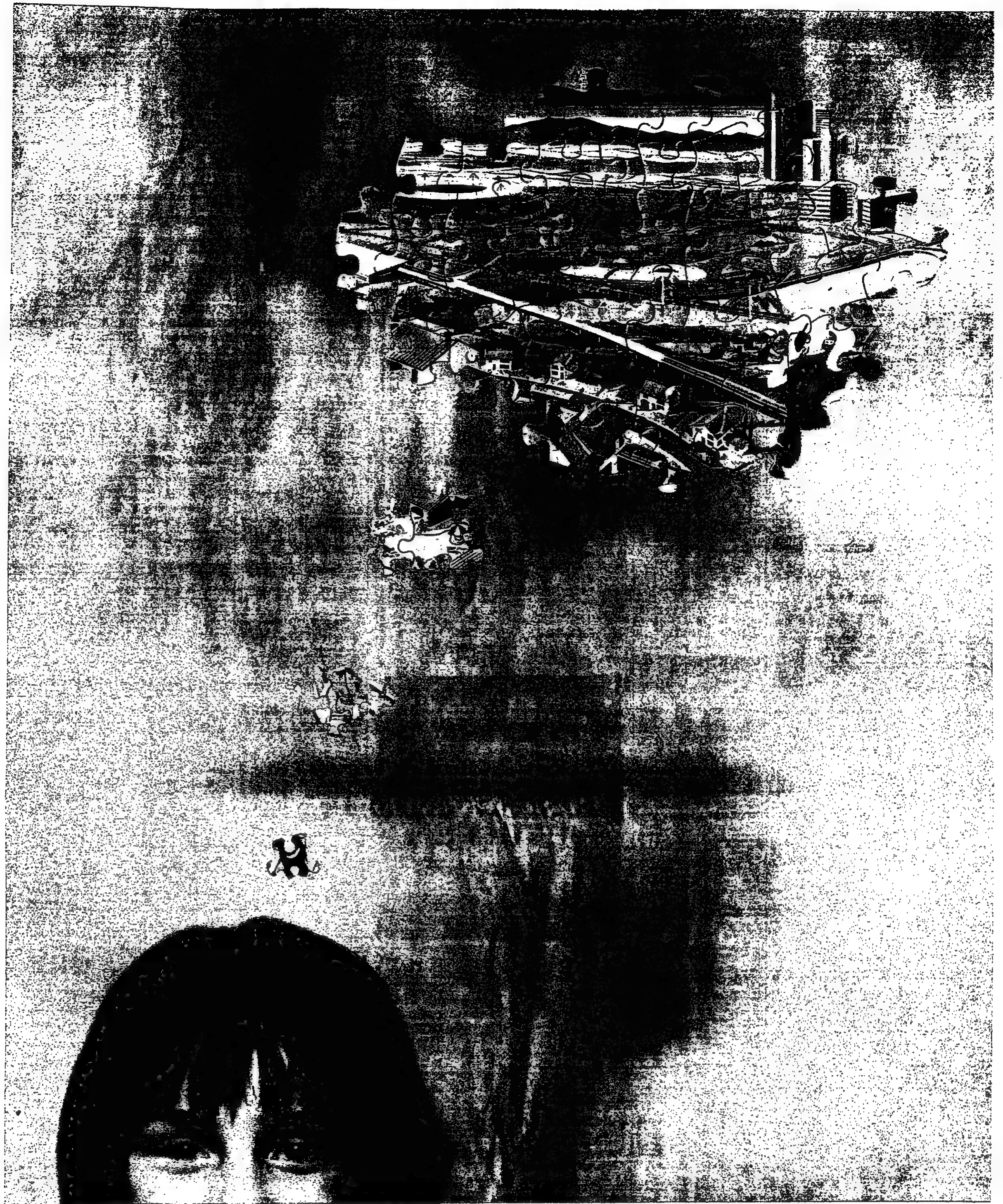


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# Radical change starts at the grass-roofs level

The Integer Millennium House's innovative use of low and high-tech has produced a home that is truly green. Rachel Kelly reports

The roofscapes of Britain could soon turn green. The last bit of turf has just been planted on a roof that combines glass and alpine grass at the Building Research Establishment in Garston, Watford. Next month Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, will open the £250,000 house — which is to feature in a BBC series — and the public will be able to visit early next year. Its designers are confident that it will become the roof of the future.

The innovative style, a radical departure from slate and tile, is the culmination of a two-year project. Known as the "Integer" (for "intelligent and green") Millennium House, the building combines low-tech environmentally friendly design and advanced information technology.

The Watford project will have wide influence: similar designs will be on show at the Greenwich Millennium Village, and there are plans for such developments for about 100 homes in housing association property in West Bromwich, Harlow, Maidenhead and Wiltshire. It is hoped that construction on 15 houses at each site will start next spring at a cost of about £1 million.

The project leader, Nick Thompson, of the architects Cole Thompson Associates, says: "Although there is only a demonstration house at present, we will be building production houses next year. They are superior in safety, security and comfort to the conventional home and represent better value."

Despite being slightly more expensive than the more traditional options, Mr Thompson is confident that the energy saved in heating means that the roof would more than pay for itself over a few years. He estimates that the extra features in the house add around 15 per cent extra to costs.

The materials used within the project have been modified to make them suitable for domestic use. The

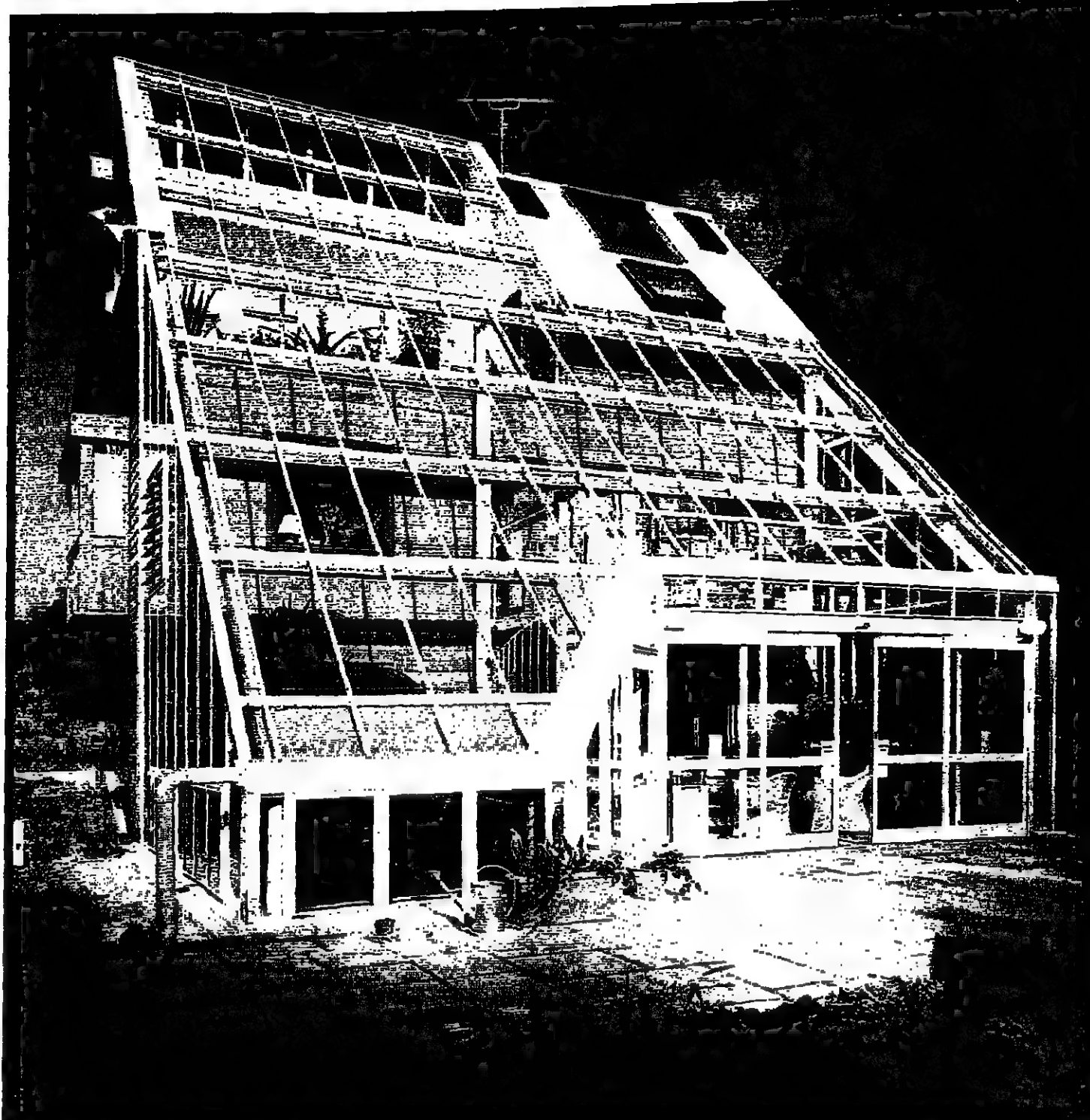
glass covering one side of the building is "impact resistant" and does not shatter. It has been developed by Queensbury International, which has worked with Cole Thompson on the Queen Elizabeth Glasshouse at Windsor Great Park. Doors on to the garden help to regulate the temperature, while louvres at the top provide more ventilation. There are automated shades for summer.

The glass side of the roof incorporates a rainwater collection system. Water is collected in a V-shaped gutter from where it runs into a pond and is used to water the garden. Its 45-degree pitch should mean that the glass is, in effect, self-cleaning.

The other side of the roof will be made up of a special grass, sedum, chosen for its hardiness and because of the low level of maintenance that it requires. The sedum is pre-grown and rolled on top of a mineral wool layer that prevents the roof draining too quickly. A biodegradable compound stops roots growing down and damaging lower layers. The roof vegetation helps to lower carbon dioxide levels, which dovetails with the Government's efforts to make the building trade reduce consumption of the gas.

The walls of the building are clad in western red cedar, which requires no staining or sealing. Parts of the house were assembled off-site. Bathrooms with water-saving, tapless baths were prefabricated and craned in. The heating is from renewable sources, notably a geothermal probe buried next to the house that draws on the temperature of the earth and converts it with a heat pump to power trench heaters in the floors. The house also boasts an "intelligent key system" that admits visitors at pre-programmed times.

The Integer project is one of many environmentally friendly schemes designed in part to celebrate the millennium. Perhaps the biggest will be the Millennium Village in Greenwich. The aim is to re-



The glass roof covering one side of the Integer Millennium House is shatter-proof and incorporates a system to collect rainwater

duce energy consumption by 80 per cent, domestic waste by 50 per cent and car use by 30 per cent. The targets rely on villagers driving less, becoming familiar with their waste-recycling facilities and being careful with the central heating. The Government's regeneration agency English Partnerships is looking at its next generation of millennium villages with the aim of producing a blueprint for regeneration, too.

And in a private project at Hockerton, near Newark, the first of five families have moved into homes roofed with 500 tons of earth. The families generate their own power, collect and recycle water and grow their own food. Nick White and his three children live in one of the houses. "The joy of these roofs is that our homes are heated at 20 degrees but we are not using any central heating. The insulation is fantastic. And the roofs mean that we blend in — the other day a man from ParcelForce couldn't find us."

He says there is nothing eccentric about his home: "We are middle-class professionals who want a lifestyle that is less damaging to the planet. These are not huts with grass roofs, but carefully designed homes with all the mod cons."

Additional reporting by Anna Hilton



The other half of the roof is made of sedum, a grass chosen for its hardiness and low maintenance

## SMART MOVES

THE Hackwood Park Estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire sold this month for an estimated £7 million to the developers British Land. The house and its exceptional Spring Wood was previously owned by the late Lord Camrose, whose family owned *The Daily Telegraph*. British Land is thought to wish to develop the estate with its links to the M3 and Basingstoke. Private buyers were dissuaded by the road blight, say the agents, Knight Frank.

□ A FLAT in 12-14 Reeves Mews, London, the former home of Christina Onassis, is for sale. Her father, Aristotle Onassis, bought the property in 1967 and gave it to her for her 16th birthday. The flat is for sale through DTZ Debenham Thorpe for £895,000 on a 62-year lease.

□ THERE are 14,000 acres on the Welsh Pencil Estate in the Brecon Beacons for sale. The land comes with the manorial title of "Lord of the Manor of Welsh Pencil", and also sporting and mineral rights. The area has sites of historic importance dating from medieval and Roman times. The estate is between Merthyr Tydfil and Brecon and is for sale through Knight Frank's Hereford office.

□ THE house of the painter, illustrator, writer and war artist Paul Nash is for sale. Nash moved to Oxford in 1939 where he created a bureau for artists to help them to paint and support themselves in other jobs. He worked as an artist for the Air Ministry and Ministry of Information. Some of his paintings hang in the Tate Gallery and the Imperial War Museum. 106 Banbury Road, Oxford, has ten bedrooms and is being sold by Carter Jones's Oxford office for £1,100,000.

□ DINISH ISLAND in the Kenmare Estuary in Co Kerry is for sale. The 28-acre island has an eight-bedroom main house with guest annex, boathouse, three piers, a five-bedroom cottage and several outbuildings. The island has mains water, electricity, telephone and oil-fired central heating and is for sale through Knight Frank for £1,320,000.

□ THE former home of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein is for sale. Isington Mill, in Alton, Hampshire, is a Grade II converted mill on the River Wey. After the Second World War, the Field Marshal returned homeless and bought the old water mill, granary and oast houses in Isington, which he later converted. With the shortage of building materials after the war, contributions for the house came from all over the Commonwealth. Many of the doors and floors are made from Tasmanian oak. The house was handed down to his son, the present Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, who sold it to the vendors in 1989. The house is for sale through Knight Frank's Guildford office for £900,000.

BEN WAKEHAM

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CHANGING TIMES

## It pays to give nanny home help

Staff housing can lift prices, says Annabel Venning

NICOLA HORLICK says she could not run her life without one and New York bankers poach each others' with extravagant enticements, such as sports cars, tennis coaching and luxury flats.

If Mary Poppins were around today and working in Greenwich Village she could probably command a BMW and a smart loft apartment at the least.

Top nannies now demand top accommodation, as estate agents and developers have discovered. Houses with the right nanny flat can command 5 to 10 per cent premiums. Good domestic staff are in high demand, says Serena le Maistre, of her eponymous agency. She places about 100 nannies a year, the majority of them in live-in positions. The accommodation, with few exceptions, is usually of a high standard and is often separate from the main house, which most nannies prefer.

"The upstairs-downstairs mentality is becoming rare," says Ms le Maistre. "Employers recognise the value of good domestic staff and reward them with good working and living conditions."

Housebuilders in affluent commuter areas are latching on to the boom in domestic service. The Midland builders, CALA Homes, recently built two houses near Sutton Coldfield, on sale for £785,000 each, with self-contained flats designed for domestic staff above detached garages, consisting of a bedroom, bath-



Paying her way: Kelly Fisk, a nanny in her flat at her employer's home in West London

room and sitting room-cum-kitchen. Sue Parry, sales and marketing director for CALA Homes, explains the thinking behind these developments. With two-income families and working hours on the rise, Britons are increasingly turning to outside help to run their households. The amount spent on domestic help has tripled in the past decade to £4.3 billion a year. "Houses with separate staff accommodation will be a big thing," Ms Parry predicts. Estate agents are also find-

ing that annexes that can be used for nanny, granny or a carer are popular. "They can be a big selling point," says Rory Ogilvy, of FPD Savills, which is selling a property in Hampstead with its own staff flat under the main house.

And, as Jonathan Wates, of Wates Built Homes, emphasises: "You needn't be a millionaire to be thinking about having staff accommodation within your property."

Wates is now building houses in Surrey which sell at

around £700,000 and incorporate an annex with a separate entrance, a big attraction for families with nannies.

"There are privacy issues: one thing that puts people off having a nanny is that they can't walk around naked in their own house. Also, the nanny doesn't necessarily want to wake the household up when she comes back at night, so a separate entrance is ideal."

As one new parent explains, having nanny accommodation saves money in the long run.

"You end up paying a higher salary for a daily nanny as it has to cover her rent, but if she's living with you, you can pay less. And you don't have to worry that she'll turn up on time." As live-in nannies can expect to be paid £150-£200 per week, while a live-out nanny gets £250-£300 on average, splashing out on a nanny annex could pay dividends.

So what are the practicalities of changing your home so that you and your nanny can happily live with each other, not on top of each other? If the house does not include staff accommodation the options are to adapt it to incorporate an apartment such as the flat occupied by Kelly Fisk at her employer's home in Parson's Green, West London, extend it or build a separate residence.

Anthony de Moubrey, of the Canterbury-based architects Lee Evans De Moubrey, offers the following advice:

If it is for a nanny, bear in mind how you might use the space afterwards — as a games room or granny annex perhaps — and plan accordingly: always get planning permission first and, if it is a listed building, permission.

Obtain quotes before you do anything. Costs can escalate, particularly if you have to put in insulation, or if you are converting an historic building: be aware that your planning permission will probably be contingent on not selling the new development as a separate property. Try to use local people who will know the council and what its policy is on extensions, as well as the cheapest suppliers.

● CALA Homes: 0121 629 1300; FPD Savills: 0171-591 5700; Wates Built Homes: 0181-764 2308; Serena le Maistre & Associates 0171-30 9991.







Cardiff's dockland, once a red-light district blighted by decades of urban decay, is being transformed, Senay Boztas reports

# How Tiger Bay turned respectable

Eleven years ago, the only attraction in Cardiff Bay was the rundown red-light area. But a multimillion-pound regeneration project has been trying to seduce a different kind of punter.

Offices, shops and 6,000 new homes are rising from the once-dilapidated landscape, and even the streets are growing—eight miles, in total, around the huge freshwater lake created by a new bay barrage.

"We were trying to get away from the London Docklands idea of attracting only yuppies," says Pat Lewis, the housing strategy manager for the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC). "We wanted different kinds of people: whatever your income, whatever your lifestyle, there is something for you."

The CBDC is responsible for building the barrage across the mouth of the bay to transform the 1,100-hectare site. Part of the old docks remains, together with historic monuments such as the 19th-century Pierhead Building. But after a vast clean-up operation, ten housing developers and various businesses are moving in.

In September the city council gave the go-ahead for a sports village designed to accommodate ice hockey, among other pursuits. Whether this proceeds will depend on the success of a £9 million Sportscotland bid, which is awaiting a recommendation. An American bank has also announced that it is moving in and the building housing the Welsh National Assembly will be completed in the inner bay next year.

The international rugby stadium will be between the bay development and the city centre: there is already a shop-

ping village and a leisure complex complete with nightclub and cinemas.

Of the 6,000 new homes planned, some 2,500 have been built at various points around the bay. A quarter of these are "social housing" for those on council waiting lists. The aim, according to Frank Leavis, CBDC's public affairs manager, is to integrate private with council housing in

**"There will be no uptown and downtown, just one big European capital"**

continental-style flats. "We want people to live and work here, rather than commuting for an hour every day from the suburbs," he says.

Mr Leavis is adamant that the attractions of the bay will not render the city centre lifeless. "We want to merge Cardiff Bay with the city centre, making it seamless," he says. "There will be no uptown and downtown, just one big European capital with Bute Avenue and Square at its core."

The CBDC is keen to create a sense of community among new residents, from the owner of a £49,000 one-bedroom flat to the occupant of a £300,000 luxury penthouse. Already there is a newsletter, *Making Waves*, in which residents can make their views known.

St David, a housebuilding

firm belonging to the Berkeley Group, is building more than 200 homes in the inner bay, at Adventurers Quay. Its site spans a marina which will be a centre for watersports, although swimmers will have to wait 20 years before the water is clean enough for them to take a dip.

Many houses on the bay have panoramic views, and from the penthouse flats it is even possible to catch a glimpse of the Bristol coast. "The inner harbour has the potential to become one of the most sought-after residential locations in Britain," says Susan Jaquest, sales and marketing director for St David. Buyers who moved into the first one and two-bedroom flats completed by the company in June have already seen the price of their properties rise by 10 per cent.

St David is also building a waterfront development, The Meridian, with 21 Mediterranean-style townhouses costing from £220,000 to £300,000. The Sears block of 224 flats, half of which have already been sold, range from £82,500 for one-bedroom apartments to £315,000 for two-bedroom penthouses with balcony and terrace. They will be completed next year. Ms Jaquest expects them to sell well before construction ends.

At the other end of the bay is Windsor Quay, a development with mixed private and social housing developed by Westbury Builders. Houses start at about £60,000 and are closer to shops, although projected transport links have not been built to any part of the development. People who were quick to buy in the area still have to en-



Adventurers Quay with its breathtaking views spans a marina, which will be a centre for watersports, and will be home to more than 200 households

## A JOLLY GOOD MOVE

FIRST-TIME buyer Graham Jolly will move into a £66,500 two-bedroom flat at Windsor Quay in November. "Cardiff Bay offers value in an exciting location with brilliant prospects," he says. Mr Jolly, an area manager for a retail company, wanted a lively base for a couple of years with good transport links. He transferred from Bournemouth in February, and has been renting in Windsor Quay since then.

Happy with the area, he decided to make a more permanent move, and has bought a new flat on the waterfront, built by Westbury Builders. It is still being constructed, but he was keen to get a bargain and, living alone, he can be flexible. "I looked at Penarth and Haven near by," he says, "but a place in Cardiff Bay is a good investment. It is easy to get to — and my job involves travelling around the whole of southeast Wales."

Pat Lewis, housing strategy manager of the CBDC, describes Windsor Quay as a flagship mixture of social and private housing, and Mr Jolly thinks it works. He says: "There is a limited community at the moment, so things like little local shops are lacking." But he is sure that the development will grow.

## A VIEW FROM THE TOP

CHARLES EVESON, 50, is selling his London penthouse to settle into his £300,000 two-bedroom flat with panoramic views of Cardiff Bay.

"In London I became a convert to penthouse living — so when I came here, I was hooked. Cardiff Bay has a wonderful freshness about it. I'm confident it will be a good investment," he says.

Mr Eveson is a manager of a top motoring firm, and transferred to Wales 15 months ago. He once owned an Oxfordshire country house but now loves loft living. He was looking for a penthouse for about £200,000 and was surprised by the prices for Adventurers

Quay, developed by St David. But he couldn't resist his duplex penthouse with its sea view above Penarth marina. At Christmas he will move into the 2,000sq ft flat on the sixth floor. A 35ft-long drawing room will open on to a private balcony, and a spiral staircase will lead to two large bedrooms. It will be fitted with beechwood floors and a customised colour scheme.

Mr Eveson, who is renting across the bay, regularly visits his penthouse while it is being completed. "It is breathtaking," he says. "We hear a lot about South Wales attracting new industry, but this is still a well-kept secret."

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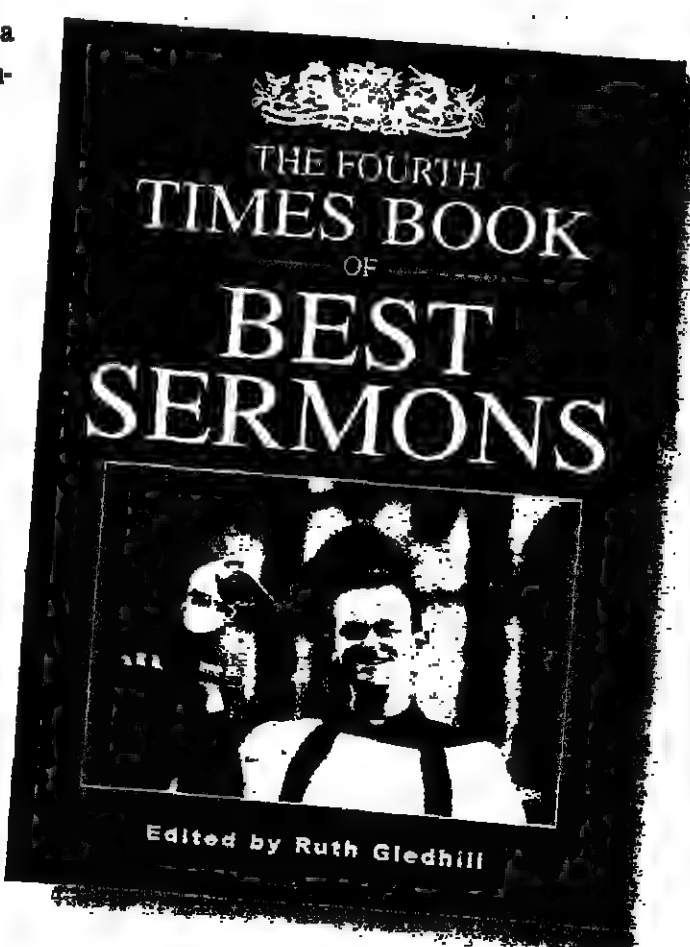
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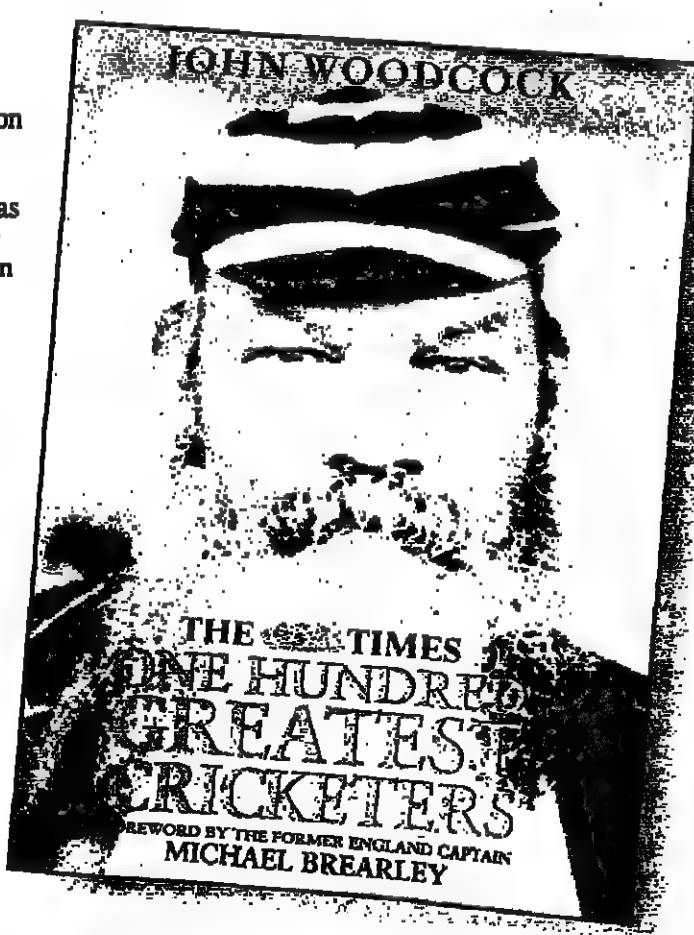
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# THE TIMES ARTS

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## I have seen the future - and reshot it

Geoff Brown acts as his own movie director, thanks to the hands-on wizardry of Digital Video Disc

With cold winter nights approaching, the time has come to put the future into the video machine. What shall it be? *Fargo* dubbed into Spanish? *Dangerous Liaisons* with subtitles in Arabic, Polish, Greek, Czech, Turkish, Hungarian, Icelandic - or English for the hearing-impaired? Maybe you fancy watching *Contact* with the soundtrack expunged of its bothersome dialogue and sound effects, leaving just the music. Or perhaps you prefer to absorb this version of Carl Sagan's novel in the company of its star, Jodie Foster, and listen to her audio commentary as she shares her thoughts about playing Ellie Arroway, the astronomer sent out into space as mankind's ambassador to extraterrestrials.

"Hi, I'm Jodie Foster," she begins, with an intonation that suggests she desperately needs you to confirm her identity. Perhaps she felt uneasy at letting down her drawbridge in public, and talking intimately to the viewer. But she had better get used to it, for audio commentaries, like esoteric subtitles, could become commonplace in the new-explosion universe of DVD (Digital Video Disc). The trusty video cassette, with its capacity to record as well as play back, will certainly not vanish overnight, or even next year; but it is obvious that the future of video home entertainment lies in a disc format such as DVD, launched in Britain this autumn after a rousing beginning in America.

Sound and picture quality are markedly superior to the video standard. The picture resolution for DVD consists of 500 lines, as opposed to 430 for a laser disc and 250 for the VHS video cassette. The sharper picture is coupled with extra depth and spatial separation in the sound, even when relayed through the speakers built into standard television sets. The current cost of the discs is not outrageously out-

rageous (between £16 and £24, depending on retailer and distributor), although consumers must jump the hurdle of paying some £400 to buy yet another oblong black box to play the discs in the first place. You may also rent discs and equipment.

At the moment, the available catalogue is dominated by recent releases, although there are already past British classics such as *Brief Encounter* and *Powell and Pressburger's* *A Matter of Life and Death* (with an audio commen-

**'Now you can interact with a film as you might with a computer video game or CD'**

tary from the cameraman, Jack Cardiff).

A DVD has the same size and sheen of a compact disc. Its information comes packed into data pits, one tenth as thick as a human hair. Like on a CD, or the cumbersome 12in laser disc (never a hit with the general public), this information can be accessed through assigned "chapter" numbers. By pressing the correct handset buttons you can jump to favourite scenes and instigate numerous special features, such as those Icelandic subtitles that give added joy to *Dangerous Liaisons*. By pressing the incorrect buttons, you can summon up some obstinate hi-glyphic that takes ages to remove.

DVD's ease of access, shared with the CD and laser disc, raises interesting points about what academics would probably refer to as the temporal continuum of film narrative. For almost all of cinema's history, audiences have had very little choice in the way

they viewed a film. They could sit in the cinema and watch the film from beginning to end, provided they arrived on time. They could abandon the narrative and leave the cinema. But they had no other options: the chunk of time the films took to unroll was unmovable, impene-

Not any more. Now you can interact with a film as you might with a computer video game or a CD. In Warner Bros' special edition of *Contact* I could start my viewing with chapter 18 (*Ellie in a nutshell*), smartly proceed to chapter 3 (*Listening for the little green men*) and duck and weave throughout. With some ingenuity I could also remove every scene featuring the film's silliest character, the Howard Hughes-like billionaire played by John Hurt. Some DVD releases even offer the possibility of viewing specific shots from alternate camera angles. The film is no longer a sacred object, set in stone; it is a Post-Modern text, available for do-it-yourself deconstruction.

For the viewer, this development offers new possibilities for entertainment. For film distributors, the extra trills of DVD open up new ways of making a dull film seem enticing (the special edition for *Sphere*, with its audio commentaries and fancy special effects documentary, is a case in point).

But there is a danger here. This is already the age of the fidgets, and any gains from the rapid-fire absorption of data made possible by advanced technology also results in losses. We are losing our ability to appreciate quietness and slowness. The DVD format is a perfect showcase for an action-packed film with a visual sheen and sonic bombardment. It may not work the same magic on a rap content-ment of a doorknob from an avant-garde film-maker such as Michael Snow, or an austere masterpiece from Robert



At DVD's British launch, Page 3 lovely Jo Guest lets the technological miracle go to her ears

Bresson, the Trappist monk of French cinema.

Still, who said progress was always beneficial? One DVD irritant is already apparent: the use of regional codes to stop one disc from one part of the world being readily played on equipment elsewhere. Discs and players on sale in America come marked with a code, marked Region One. Those on sale throughout Europe (Region Two) share a different code, and the two are incompatible. The Hollywood studios enforced this system in their battle against film piracy:

since theatrical release patterns vary throughout the world, it would otherwise be possible for a DVD of *Godzilla*, or whatever, to be sold abroad before the film had reaped any foreign box-office revenue. Similar fears have hampered the commercial development of DVD as a home recording medium, the one area in which the video cassette remains king.

There is another downside, at least for the actors, film-makers and technicians who are involved in delivering those audio commentaries affixed to

some DVD release. Hollywood stars are hardly used to talking conversationally to their public. What on earth do you say? *Contact* lasts 144 minutes, which is a lot of time to fill. Sometimes Foster waxes lyrical on the problems of remembering techno-babble dialogue, shooting the same scene more than 30 times, or acting with special effects due to be inserted later. At other times, she is stumped. "Another cloudy day," she says, eyeing the scene's grey skies. Thanks, Jodie, but we did not need the miracle of DVD to spot that.

## Tragic malady lingers on

No well-adjusted teenager brought up in the 1970s would admit to taking Richard and Karen Carpenter seriously. They were the Waltons of pop, squeaky clean heartbreakers in creased flares who sold enough slushy LPs to make themselves millionaires.

"Schmaltz is what the Middle American dollar wants," snarls their mother, Agnes Carpenter, in Murray Woodfield's new play with music. And schmaltz of sorts is what we get. Although Woodfield neatly exposes the contradiction between the family's wholesome public image and their unhealthy, claustrophobic private lives, what comes across is a lopsided, inadvertently funny tribute to Karen's short life. When the play opens, the anorexia that eventually killed the singer in 1983 has shrunk her weight to a dangerously low 78lb. "You have the means and ability to keep yourself alive," shouts her psychiatrist, Steven (Geoffrey Toward), skulking about his office in exasperation. "That's major incompetence," he adds, bafflingly.

Prompted by Steven's boring questions, Laurence Bourdard's self-loathing Karen relives the nightmare of being a Carpenter. What follows is an autopsy rather than a play. Karen and Richard, her over-possessive brother, are seen arguing over the boyfriends and

THEATRE  
Yesterday  
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girlfriends neither will allow the other to see. Karen's shyness about fronting the band gives way to Richard's petty jealousy about being known only as the piano player. "What I want is good, old-fashioned recognition," moans Michael Bernardin's testy Richard. What he really needs is a good kick up the behind.

Karen's consumption of up to 90 laxative tablets a day is measured against Richard's capacity for sleeping pills. Between this inventory of bowel explosion, sleep dysfunction and much dramatic collapsing, two female singers in black deliver a lush medley of greatest hits.

These are the highlights of the show; of what it is like being on the road with one of the most successful bands in the world, there is nothing. Just Claudia Garrow's terrifying mother, who is reason enough for any sibling to commit suicide. Peter Gerald adds a couple of spicy cameos but, if you want to moon over the Carpenters, stick to the vinyl.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## That's war, folks

ANGLO-IRISH scholars may scour the texts of Martin McDonagh's plays for glancing allusions to Synge and Friel, but sometimes it seems their time might be better spent noticing something else. If Coleman and Valene, the warring brothers at the centre of McDonagh's *The Lonesome West* (at the Belkale Arts Centre in a new touring Druid and Royal Court co-production), have obvious antecedents, they seem more likely to be found in the *Looney Tunes* canon.

Just watch as the stakes rise in the pair's campaign of vicious pranks and calculated affronts. Listen for the smashing china, wait for the anticipation, exaggeration and low-through as each round of the brothers' battle heads towards its knock-out punch. For this reason, the casting of Pat Shortt and Jon Kenny as the two brothers, who provide Connemara's deadly answer to Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner, is an inspired one. For many years Shortt and Kenny, in the guise of d'Unbelievables, have been producing a type of comedy that never seemed likely to find much appreciation with audiences overseas.

Their shows typically enlisted distinctly parochial characters, grotesque drag, masks, enormous foam hands, hairy ears and audience partici-



tion to create a surreal remix of old school Irish comedy. Straining McDonagh's text through this pair's special brand of cowed surrealism is an enticing prospect.

The presence of Shortt and Kenny could, if that were possible, boost the madness of the piece, sending something that always hovers between melodrama and farce spinning towards pantomime. But they and director Gary Hynes seem to have opted to keep a relatively tight rein on proceedings. Rather than cause their roles to bulge in awkward ways, the two men fit into them rather comfortably.

David Wilmut, as the local priest who blames himself for not reconciling the brothers, and Pauline Hutton both deliver low-key performance that leave plenty of room for Shortt and Kenny to get on with their war. But while the pair draw sharp characters, full of churlish adolescent spite busily hardening into hatred, they never attempt to pump Coleman and Valene up to grotesque, cartoon scale.

LUKE CLANCY

## The Saatchi cavalry rides in to save the arts

The first thing that marketing people learn to market is themselves. Tomorrow the arts world will welcome, or in some churlish quarters perhaps not welcome at all, a new marketing outfit that might need more self-marketing than most. It is called M&C Saatchi Arts, a title which at least has the merit of declaring exactly who is behind it and what area they hope to muscle into.

Muscle? The word may sound a bit pejorative, but even stronger words are being hissed by those already work-

ing in the fraught world of arts marketing. For one thing, the very name Saatchi sends a not entirely pleasant frisson through arty folk - partly because of Charles Saatchi's lavish shopping expeditions into the contemporary art world, which are said to distort the market and over-excite young artists; and partly because of lingering lurid resentment of the Saatchis' association with the Tory election campaigns of the Eighties.

"Yes, I don't expect our new enterprise to be universally exalted," admits David Ker-

The most famous brothers in advertising think they can attract new audiences. Richard Morrison reports

shaw, with a cheery *je ne regrette rien* guffaw. A Saatchi man for 17 years, he is the partner chiefly responsible for the new enterprise. "But I hope the name Saatchi also indicates a high level of expertise and advertising pedigree. And I hope that any sort of ideological prejudice will be countered by the presence of Judy at the head of M&C Saatchi Arts."

Which brings us to Judy Grahame, lately of the Royal Opera House, and prior to that the marketing supremo of the Proms and the London Philharmonic. Some say she is the shrewdest marketing brain in the arts field. Others phrase it differently.

Either way, she's a controversial figure. Her time at Covent Garden, whose is? But when she was running the marketing of the Proms and the LPO, audience figures hit all-time highs. So why is she joining the Saatchi camp?

"Generally in the arts now you see business people com-

ing in, such as Gerry Robinson at the Arts Council and Colin Southgate at the opera house, who are good in their own field but who actually have no understanding of the arts," she says. "The Saatchis have the business expertise, but getting me to front their arts division first of all makes it less intimidating to arts people, and secondly reassures them that it is run by someone who's been in the arts and knows the challenges."

But won't the hard-working marketing officers of arts organisations, frazzled to shreds by the strain of flogging seats in a world where leisure options seem to multiply every year, resent these high-powered metropolitan slickers bounding into their organisations and shaking things up?

"I hope people don't see us as a threat," Grahame says. "We want to go in and motivate the inhouse people with fresh ideas and longer-term thinking, because the second biggest problem that arts or-



Judy Grahame: from the Royal Opera to Saatchi

ganisations have - after money - is the lack of time to think where they want their organisation to be in one or two years' time."

Kershaw elaborates: "When you are in the trenches day in and day out, as most arts companies are, it's very hard to get a fresh perspective on where you stand. Unlike many marketing consultants, who deal in airy-fairy things like 'shifting the image', we are offering something tangible and measurable. We are saying: 'Try this strategy and see how much your audience grows.'"

Grahame believes that many arts organisations are "too optimistic about thinking that everyone knows who they are and what they are offering". She claims that they don't assess carefully enough who their competitors are, and where their potential new audi-

ences could come from. "Every-one knows that audiences for the subsidised arts are declining in many areas, and that they must find new audiences. But they don't use any imagination about working out how to find them."

The new Saatchi team envisage that big arts companies would hire them for a brief but intense "injection of creativity", while smaller ones, struggling to maintain any cogent marketing policy at all, might opt for a more comprehensive "outsourcing" of marketing.

Won't the Saatchis' audience-building advice simply boil down to telling ballet companies to do nothing but *Swan Lake*, orchestras to programme walk-to-wall easy-listening, and theatres to stage little except musicals and Alan Ayckbourn?

"No, this is absolutely not about dumbing down," says Grahame vehemently. "We are not there to interfere in any way with a company's artistic programme. We are there to achieve measurable audience increases, so that the company can continue with that artistic programme."

But the Saatchi name and expertise doesn't come cheap, does it? Can desperately cash-strapped subsidised arts organisations really afford to hire this Rolls-Royce style of marketing expertise?

"What we are saying is that we don't think people can afford not to hire us," says Grahame. Besides, she adds reassuringly, "we are not going to cost hundreds of thousands of pounds."

She's very persuasive. But then, that's her job.

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HERITAGE

Save our warehouses

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney reports on the growing calls to regenerate Britain's derelict buildings as housing

# Plenty of room to park in town?



Home is where the derelict building was: left, two of the ten disused warehouses in Manchester's Whitworth Street that now provide more than 1,000 flats; right, the once-derelict St Saviour's Dock in Southwark is a mix of businesses and homes



Lord Rogers of Riverside has a fight on his hands. His Urban Task Force was set up to identify brown-field sites to help meet the Government's target of 4.4 million new homes in England by 2016. But it foresaw the need being met entirely by new development in his prospectus, listed buildings are regarded simply as a constraint that "can effectively block redevelopment".

Now a growing band of environmentalists, town planners and housing charities is hitting back, claiming that at least half the need could be met from refurbishing existing disused buildings.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, for ten years the chairman of the Historic Buildings Council (now English Heritage), says: "I fear that the emphasis on large-scale redevelopment presages a repeat of the 1960s which drove so many residents and businesses from historic centres."

She was launching a report, *Catalytic Conversion*, published by an alliance of 21 conservation groups, which sets out a dramatic story of urban regeneration — 1,800 jobs created in refurbished Victorian mills at Saltaire near Bradford, 3,500 in the former textile mills at Dean Clough, Halifax. At St Saviour's Dock, along a Thames creek, derelict warehouses have become a thriving mix of small businesses and new residents.

An authoritative study of vacant land and buildings issued by Friends of the Earth, titled *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Urban Reform*, concludes that there is a potential capacity for 7.2 million homes without touching one acre of greenfield. And half of this is achievable in the next 16 years, if the Government is willing to institute the necessary policies.

First, the Empty Homes Agency has identified a staggering 767,000 properties standing vacant. Next,

up to 100,000 homes can be created in empty commercial space. Loft apartments are now being created in old warehouses all over the country by private developers and housing associations; in Whitworth Street, Manchester, ten warehouses have been converted to more than 1,000 flats, creating a new residential community. In addition over 20 per cent of modern office space is empty in many town centres and, according to the report, "the number of office conversions [to housing] is much higher than anyone expected".

Another major opportunity lies in literally "living over the shop". Walk down any shopping street outside the Central London boroughs and numerous upper floors will be found empty, or used for storage. This could provide up to one million homes. Nick Falk of URBED — the Urban and Economic Development Group — who helped to prepare the report says: "The beauty is

that this sort of accommodation is found not just in big cities but in numerous country towns, providing the spread that the Government seeks." Moreover, bringing people back into towns not only helps to sustain shops and schools but makes streets safer. A huge number of additional homes, up to two million, can be created through the subdivision of houses too large for single family use.

All of these categories are suitable for the single-person homes so much in demand. Falk says: "All this goes against the views of the volume housebuilders, who say the only thing people want is boxes on green fields in the middle of nowhere." One survey, showing that 76 per cent rejected the idea of living in urban areas, was found to have been conducted entirely among people who had just bought brand new suburban homes.

The big question is just how quickly these buildings can be brought back into use. The attraction of greenfield sites is that once services such as water and sewerage have been provided, building is easy. By contrast, persistence is needed to free up empty buildings. A handy report, *Joined Up Thinking*, published by the indefatigable Empty Homes Agency, describes successful action by local councils.

Empty homes can be a serious blight on neighbouring houses. Absentee owners include offshore companies hoping to cash in on redevelopment; and developers with negative equity awaiting an upturn in the market. Compulsory purchase is expensive and time consuming. The agency recommends that councils carrying out "works-in-default" put a charge on the property, like a mortgage, the mere threat of which frequently prompts a sale.

Many absentee owners are also claiming 100 per cent discount on

council tax on the grounds that major works are under way, but the works never show any signs of starting. URBED thinks businesses should be taxed on empty property, but given a rate holiday when it comes back into use.

Most prejudicial of all is the fact that new houses are free of VAT while most forms of repair attract a hefty 17.5 per cent rate. URBED demands equal treatment for new building and conversions.

For Rogers and his colleagues, it is a question of which battle to fight first. The scene is set for a replay of the classic battle fought by the Association of Waterloo Groups against Rogers's proposals in the early Eighties for a massive development of offices and shops running from Waterloo station to Blackfriars Bridge.

The then president of RIBA claimed this was a site of national importance which should not just be left to the locals. But the locals

won, the Oxo Tower is handsomely restored, and a large number of local families occupy newly built terraces near by.

The Government's call for much higher densities around major rail terminals could spark fierce battles with local communities in places such as King's Cross and Southwark. These are all the more unnecessary as English Heritage has a massive war chest for conservation area regeneration.

If Rogers can make common cause with environmental groups, he could go down in history as the man who both revived the city and saved the countryside. And there will still be no shortage of land for new architecture on brownfield sites — up to 75,000 hectares, providing 3.5 million homes.

For a copy of *Catalytic Conversion* send £5 to SAVE, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP. Conservation-Led Regeneration is free from English Heritage. Customer Services on 0171-973 3434

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PETER ROSE

Age: 21

Profession: Playwright

**Fleshy fantasy:** Aged 19, he wrote *Snatch*, a gruesome drama about a man and a woman who possess each other's bodies. Premiered by Soho Theatre Company at the Pleasance in London earlier this month, it was praised by *The Times's* Jeremy Kingston as "alarming" and "remarkable".

**Picture perfect:** *Bloody Ugly*, completed when he was all of 17, opened at the White Bear Theatre, Kensington, last night and runs until December 13. "It's a fairly extreme story about an art dealer who visits a really working-class household, decides that the girl he finds there is a perfect work of art and offers her father a huge amount of money for her."

**Any more scripts tucked away?** Yes. *Monsters* has been lying around for five years. "It's about a girl who has no morals. It's OK, but you can tell I was 16 when I wrote it."

**No model pupil, he:** He left school in East Barnet, London, at 16. "I didn't get on with the teachers and wasn't very good at being taught. As soon as I left, I started writing and also found myself reading and adoring Shakespeare, Dylan Thomas and all the other writers I had despised at school."

**Making ends meet:** "To pay the bills I worked in shops, as a labourer at Kew Gardens and with my Dad, who's a baker. When I was unemployed I wrote all day."

**Favourite characters:** "I'm interested in innocent people who become victims. I don't want to write just for entertainment's sake. I want to get people talking."

**Influences?** The most important is another dramatist with a penchant for innocent victims: Joe Orton. "I like the way he laughed at things you aren't supposed to laugh at."

**Ideal audience:** "My Mum and Dad and about 30 of my theatregoers. My Mum and Dad and none of them friends and relations came to see *Snatch* and none of them had ever been in the theatre before. What's great is that my parents went back to the Pleasance for the next production."

**What next?** "I'm working on a new play, but I haven't got an agent and I'm not earning a living from writing. I'll see how things go for another year and review the situation."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



## A pestle to the faithful

The Russian iconographer's art is alive, well, and on show in London. Rachel Campbell-Johnston reports



Virgin with Child, by the iconographer Sergei Fyodorov

Recently I visited Westminster Abbey. Outside, on Parliament Square, the rush-hour traffic showed and hassled. Big Ben bashed out the passing hour. But inside all was still. Thick walls filtered the fluster from the morning air. And, hanging on twin piers of the nave, a pair of icons gleamed, their solemn beauty seeming to capture and distil the quiet mood. "It would be difficult to be an iconographer and not be religious," says Sergei Fyodorov, the Russian artist from whom this pair of icons was commissioned four years ago. He himself, having been brought up in Soviet Russia, came to his own Orthodox beliefs only later in life. He was already a teenage student at a Moscow art college when, captivated by the beauty of the icons in a museum, he grew curious and visited a church for the first time. From then on he secretly apprenticed himself to a monk, Father Zinov, who, over the next decades, was not only to inspire Fyodorov in his faith, but teach him the ancient traditions of the iconographer's art.

"The purpose of an artist in making a painting is completely different from that of making an icon," Fyodorov explains. "Although an icon may look like a painting on the surface, it is a church doctrine, an evidence of the embodiment of God." The process of creating one, he believes, is a service similar to that which a priest leads in church. It should be prayerful.

Perhaps prayer is the source of the icon painter's necessary sense of dedication. In a contemporary era of acrylic paints and ready-made components, when a "masterpiece" can be only an idea and a phone call to a technician away, the painstaking processes of iconography may appear old-fashioned

and unprofitable. The ancient techniques which Fyodorov follows cannot be hurried or made easier. "If a process takes 12 hours then it takes 12 hours," he says. "It can't be cut to six."

He explains the careful stages by which an icon is prepared, starting from the wooden board: lime is best — soft and without too many knots or too much resin. On to this, layer upon layer of gesso is applied, building up a surface like polished ivory on to which the lineaments of composition

can eventually be laid down with a precision that takes years of practice.

Gilding is also a skilled — and expensive — craft. Rich 24 carat gold is applied in leaves, although for the finest details — the fringes of a Virgin's robe or the stars on St George's billowing cape — gold dust bound with gum arabic is painted on. Using a pestle and mortar, Fyodorov grinds all his own pigments — malachite, lapis, ochres and cinnabar — mixing them into an emulsion with egg yolk, water

and white wine. "Any old wine will do," says Fyodorov. "I'm not going to waste chablis. But the eggs must be free-range and organic."

When the painting is complete — another slow process, since Fyodorov paints only in daylight and during the summer months — the gilt is burnished by rubbing with a smooth hard stone and the icon's surface sealed with a varnish made of amber, ground and melted in turpentine and linseed oil. Stirred over heat for five or six hours, it is applied as it cools, before it becomes too viscous.

An exhibition of Fyodorov's work, *A Vision of Eternity*, has been giving buyers in search of authentic craftsmanship a rare opportunity. Once, icons were smuggled out of Russia easily and could be picked up at reasonable prices by those prepared to brush any pangs of conscience aside. Now the Russian mafia has a stranglehold control on the business. Prices have soared. And although, as a result, a number of modern commercial icon-makers have sprung up, they understand neither the technical nor spiritual basics of their art. "A commercial icon," Fyodorov says, "is just a horrible picture. Gold does not make an icon real."

The craftsmanship of Fyodorov's art is rare — the serene composition, the rich sense of colour, the subtlety of the brushwork, the delicacy of each detail. But it is the inspiration behind them that shines through. "If a true iconographer talks of inspiration, he can only talk of God's inspiration," Fyodorov says.

● *Vision of Eternity* is at Daphne Jones Contemporary Art, 12 Duke Street, SW1 (0171-520 6866) until Friday

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## MUSIC

An American giant at 90

## ARTS

## Avant-garde for ninety years

**MUSIC:** Britain pays homage to Elliott Carter this week. John Allison met the great composer

When a composer reaches 90, there is plenty of music to choose from for a birthday concert. But it is fitting that when leading interpreters of Elliott Carter's music gather at the Barbican on Saturday to celebrate with him, all the works will be recent. He is experiencing such a remarkable Indian summer that a retrospective would hardly be appropriate.

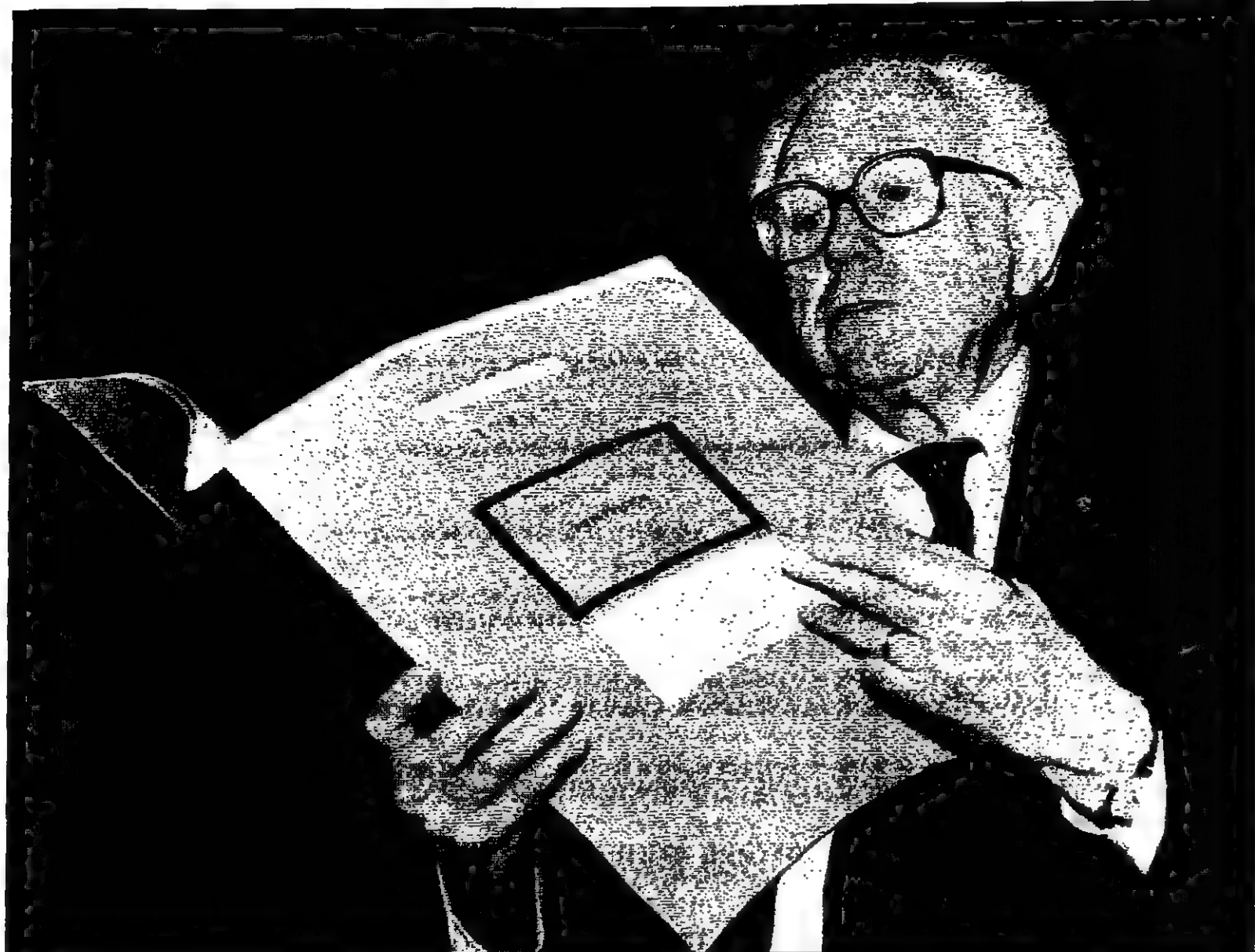
Indeed, of the two scores receiving first London performances, one — the Piano Quintet — will be only ten days old, having been premiered in Washington last Wednesday. If the style of his other new works is anything to go by, this music will be as complex as ever yet sparer than before, while still immediately engaging in its emotions.

Carter's recent music belongs to a "late late" period that few would have predicted. His long life has only increased his stature. Today this distinguished, sharp-witted figure, the embodiment of what a great composer should look like, still works away in the study in his Greenwich Village apartment in New York.

On the day I visited, earlier this month, the desk was covered in pages from his first opera, due for its premiere in Berlin next summer. Aptly titled *What Next?*, it has been a big undertaking at his age, even if it is a chamber opera lasting around 45 minutes. Commissioned by Daniel Barenboim, it was the result of the conductor's persistence.

"Even when I was in hospital with nearly fatal pneumonia he was on the phone. I began to think that if somebody wanted it that much, I must think of a subject."

Finally I saw the movie of Jacques Tati called *Traffic*. It has one moment that leads to



Elliott Carter, whose 90th birthday is celebrated in Britain this weekend. "I thought about writing electronic music, but I found the sounds primitive"

all the others — an enormous automobile accident. Everyone gets out and starts doing exercises, everything's turned into a joke. I liked the idea of a comic opera, so I talked to Paul Griffiths about providing the libretto."

What had kept him from writing an opera before? "The kind of text I'd been interested in would not have interested an operatic audience. They were all curious things by people like Ionesco and Beckett. I felt that if I wrote what I wanted to, nobody would play it in America. Maybe in Europe,

but in America the operatic world has been very limited, and I felt a lot of resistance."

Carter is perhaps a prophet without honour in his own country. Recent events, such as the New York Philharmonic's cancellation of a previously secured commission, have only served to underline his alienation from the American musical scene. He admits that his performance royalties are about four times as high from Europe as from America.

"Most of the world now supports young composers, which is right. If you support an old

composer it shows you have conviction in what he did; with a young one it's showing conviction in what he might do — so you're not in a situation where you can be criticised. America has always been not very concerned with its past but always looks to its future."

Carter's outlook is thoroughly transatlantic, and it is not surprising that while Europeans view him as American, Americans think of him as European. Though labelling can be dangerous, he is neither

very American nor very European. For one thing he never went down the electronic music route of most of his European counterparts.

"I'm very wedded to the idea of people performing, and part of the effect of music is the presence of performers. A concert is a kind of abstract theatrical event. I thought about writing electronic music, but I found the sounds primitive."

Though Carter's music sounds like no other, he lists many influences. First come Scriabin, Stravinsky and the experience of hearing Bartok perform in the 1920s. Then there was his friendship with Varèse, and studies in Paris with Boulanger.

Most famously there was his mentor Ives, and even Copland at first. "Copland was a very evocative writer, but I didn't find that American folklore stuff very admirable. He was looking at it through some kind of nostalgic haze, but it was a rather brutal time, nothing to be nostalgic about. My grandfather was actually in the Civil War, so we had it all in our family."

Carter had a privileged upbringing in the New York epoch described by Edith Wharton. "But I was a very rebellious young fellow, I was against this bourgeois world. I can't say I was a communist, but I got very interested in the Soviet Union."

"My classmates were also interested in contemporary things. One of them was Eugene O'Neill's son, and at the

time O'Neill ran a theatre where the added attraction was that you buy liquor, even during the Prohibition!"

He still recoils at the conservatism he encountered at Harvard, where he read not only music but literature, Greek, mathematics and philosophy. "I went there primarily because the Boston Symphony was playing so much contemporary music under Koussevitzky, but the Harvard music department thought it all an aberration that needed to be suppressed."

Composition lessons with Holst, an exchange professor, cannot have helped. "He always used to say: 'Mr Carter, if you played the piano better you wouldn't play so many wrong notes!'"

Seventy years on, Carter remains a confirmed Modernist. "What I consider conservative everyone else now considers Post-Modern! I'm bothered by repetitive music. We live in a world that is insistently repetitive; look at all the advertising that goes on, the political things that repeat themselves. And yet people seem to want this sleepy-time music. It's dangerous not to think, and art should be setting an example."

● The Barbican celebrates Carter from 4pm on Saturday with the Arditti Quartet, Ursula Oppens and BBC Symphony Orchestra (0171-638 8891). Carter is also featured at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival on Friday (01484 430528)

## DANCE

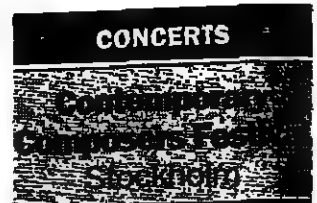
Royal Ballet upheaval

## Homage paid to Sweden's own

This time last year Stockholm's Konserthus honoured Sir Michael Tippett in an ambitious ten-day festival of his music: it turned out to be the final — and one of the finest — celebrations before his death. This year the grand old man of Swedish music, 77-year-old Ingvar Lidholm, is being fitted in this annual festival devoted to a single contemporary composer for which the Konserthus is renowned.

Like Tippett, Lidholm's influence on the music and the musical activity of his native land is vast and various. His career has spanned composition, teaching, radio, journalism; his music is written in every genre. Like Tippett, too, the young Lidholm was fascinated by Stravinsky, by early vocal polyphony, by the Classical, the Neo-Classical and, above all, by the human voice. Essentially more conventional than Tippett in both his musical and dramatic thinking, Lidholm is a supreme master of choral writing: indeed, it seems at times as if the human voice is there singing at the heart of everything he writes.

As Robert Wilson's new production of Strindberg's *Dröm* was opening across the road, Lidholm's symphonic adaptation of his own 1992 *Dröm* play opera (premiered this August in Santa Fe in a production by Colin Graham) was being rehearsed in the Konserthus. I dropped by later in the week for an evening called *The Greek Inspiration* in which the seldom performed *Nausicaa Alone*, a thrilling half-hour ritual for solo soprano (Nina Stemme), choir and ensemble (the Stock-



holm Sinfonietta), was preceded by an eloquent new "dialogue" for oboe and cor anglais called *Grekiskt pipa*.

This often demanding and challenging festival has managed to build and sustain full houses for the greater part of its 12 years, largely thanks to the local loyalty built by the charisma of the Konserthus's outgoing director, Åke Holmquist, now in his last year, and by energetic and imaginative programming. This concert also matched Stravinsky's *Apollon Musagète* with Lidholm's hieratic *The Persians*, a thrumming, throbbing dramatic scene for tenor, baritone, and male voice choir (the excellent Orpheus Drängar).

The full extent of the versatility and virtuosity of Lidholm's choral palette was revealed the following evening when the great Swedish choral conductor Eric Ericson, celebrating his 80th birthday, conducted his own chamber choir in the three Greek epigrams, or "motets for music", which form Lidholm's *Ur A cappella book*. They sprang out of the echoes of madrigals by Monteverdi and Gesualdo, and found continuing reverberations in *The Wind's Lament*, an unaccompanied chorus, by turns acribic and elegiac, from Lidholm's *Dröm* play.

HILARY FINCH

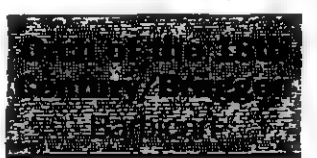
## Bach out of time

Frans Brüggen returned to the Barbican with his Orchestra of the 18th Century and the Gulbenkian Choir for an all-Bach programme that featured the *Magnificat*, and it was all very revealing — although not perhaps in the way I would have expected.

Tempos, especially in the choruses, were on the fast side, which allowed the small-scale, light-toned Gulbenkian Choir to whizz through virtuoso figural numbers such as *Omnis Generaciones*, but they lacked depth in the more dramatic moments. Generally, however, the balance between choir and orchestra was good.

But more telling than the niceties of tone and timbre (astonishingly loud flutes, for example, in the *Et misericordia*), was the sense that both Brüggen and his players are now more centred on the repertoire of the latter part of the 18th century, on the Classical period (and later) rather than the Baroque, and that this has influenced his approach to Bach. That approach is generally broader and sometimes less characterfully shaped: a smoothing out of the Baroque style sought so earnestly in the early years of the so-called authentic movement is evident.

This was particularly the case with Brüggen's line-up of Dutch soloists — Hieke Mepelink (soprano), Wilke te



Brummelstroete (mezzo), Marcel Beekman (tenor) and Jelle Draijer (bass). Not one was really stylistically aware in terms of phrasing or ornamentation, but all sang in a monochrome manner perhaps out of some misplaced sense of musical correctness. It was probably financial economy that obliged Brüggen to use the female voices of the choir for the *Suscepit Israel* rather than bring over a second soprano soloist, but it was not a successful compromise.

It was also possibly in the nature of a compromise to late 20th-century conventions of concert programming that Brüggen included the celebrated *Air* from the third *Orchestral Suite* in his rendition of the *Suite No 4*. Even though the two Suites are in the same key there is no evidence that Bach would have expected the *Air* to reappear here, and it seemed as if it were included to pad out a comparatively short second half. There was much fine orchestral playing, but I do wonder when those once passionately held ideals quietly began to be dropped.

TESS KNIGHTON

**DANCE:** Yet another crisis has hit the Royal Ballet, writes Debra Craine

## Farewell to Covent Garden



Tetsuya Kumakawa is being joined by five male colleagues

The news that five men at the Royal Ballet are jumping ship to throw their lot in with the flamboyant Japanese star Tetsuya Kumakawa has caused a predictable stir. Anything emanating from the Royal Opera House these days is inevitably seen as another nail in the coffin of the nation's premier dance and opera institution. Ever since Covent Garden closed for redevelopment 18 months ago, crisis has followed crisis, and the way ahead has become increasingly unclear. In an atmosphere of such insecurity about the future, dancers are bound to lose heart.

So it is not surprising that five of them are leaving mid-season. Gary Avis, Stuart Cassidy, Matthew Dibble, Michael Nunn and William Trevitt handed in their resignations to the Royal Ballet's director, Anthony Dowell, on Friday, just before the company's performance at Belfast's Grand Opera House. They will leave after the Christmas season at London's Festival Hall, giving Dowell just a few months to find enough dancers to perform on the regional Dance Bits tour, which starts on March 1.

Dowell is clearly furious. "I feel I have to express my disappointment at the way in which these dancers have chosen to handle their departure," he said in a statement. "There have been rumours about this

throughout the dance community for several months, and I would have found it preferable to engage in open discussions over that time." They may not sound like strong words, but coming from Dowell they are. So how big is the loss? Some might say that there is an opportunity here for the company to rid itself of some dead wood, but let us not forget that

Cassidy and Trevitt are principal dancers and their resignation leaves the Royal Ballet with only three principal men on its roster — Carlos Acosta, Jonathan Cope and Bruce Sanborn. Guest artists like Irek Mukhammedov and Igor Zeleny help to fill the gaps, but they are no substitute for permanent company members. Kumakawa, who abruptly

quit last month, was one of the Royal's top draws, but he had long been keen to strike out on his own. He is the figurehead of the new London-based company, backed by Japanese money (incredibly generous, by all accounts), which plans to perform in London and Japan. Ballet is wildly popular in Japan, and Kumakawa is its biggest Japanese star.

So far, only male colleagues are joining his enterprise, but the betting is that some of the Royal's women will also be tempted. Morale in the company is extremely low and contract negotiations are still dragging on between dancers and management. So the lure of fresh artistic challenges coupled with big money elsewhere is understandably appealing, despite the risky nature of the venture.

Michael Kaiser, Covent Garden's newly arrived executive director, is well aware of the dark mood of his dancers. "Certainly it is an insecure time at the Royal Opera House and the lack of security is felt," he says. "But we are working hard to get through this period, and I think we will."

He points to the experience of his last employer, American Ballet Theatre. "At ABT we lost over ten dancers in the past year. But companies change; they find new artists. And replacements add vigour and excitement to a company."

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## Kerr gives way to Gloucester owner

By MARK SOUSTER

**TOM WALKINSHAW**, the owner of Gloucester and the Arrows motor racing team, was elected yesterday as the new chairman of English First Division Rugby (EFD). Walkinshaw succeeds Donald Kerr, who had indicated his desire to step down and not seek re-election after three years in the post.

Kerr, at the forefront of the clubs' campaign during their dispute with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), said: "I wish Tom well. The last three years have been a challenging time, and I think we can now see light at the end of the tunnel." Having recently sold a computer business, Kerr will spend much of next year abroad as a tax exile.

Walkinshaw led the clubs' delegation that negotiated the Mayfair Agreement in May with the RFU, which brought an element of stability to the game but failed to ensure a lasting peace. He is seen as less of a hawk than Kerr and his appointment should signal a more harmonious relationship with the RFU.

Brian Balster, the RFU chairman, has said that Walkinshaw is "a man I can do business with". Walkinshaw said yesterday: "My main priority is to build on the good work already done by Donald to create a new structure for English rugby to ensure the game's future prosperity." The two men are expected to meet shortly.

Kerr was instrumental in the recent commissioning of Deloitte and Touche, the management consultants, to conduct a strategic review of the game's domestic structure, the results of which are expected next month.

Walkinshaw bought control of Gloucester for £2.3 million in April last year. He will also serve as one of four EFD representatives on the English Rugby Partnership board, the umbrella organisation for the 28 Allied Dumbarton Premiership first and second division clubs. He is joined by Nigel Wray, of Saracens, and Peter Wheeler and Ken Nottage, the chief executives of Leicester and Newcastle respectively.

RUGBY UNION: MACQUEEN HAPPY TO EXPERIMENT AGAINST ENGLAND AT TWICKENHAM

## Australia adopt new arrivals

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SINCE a clumsy Brisbane night in June, Australia have made signal advances in the global game to a position where only South Africa can claim a better record. Less than six months later, the Australians will conclude an intense international season against England at Twickenham on Saturday, which brings the wheel full circle.

The first of 13 internationals in 1998 brought Rod Macqueen's players a record 76-0 win against an indifferently prepared and desperately weakened England. Though four of the players who wreaked such havoc — Matt Burke, Tim Horan, Ben Tune and Richard Harry — are casualties, Australia will still be favoured to conclude their season with a successful defence of the Cook Cup.

They will do so with the same party that procured a 32-21 victory against France in Paris on Saturday. That will take David Wilson, the Queensland flanker, to his sixth international appearance (a mark reached by Phil Kearns, the hooker, in Paris), which illustrates the depth of experience that John Eales, the captain, has at his disposal. Eales himself has played 63 games for his country and, remarkably for a lock in modern rugby, has scored 153 points, all but ten with the boot.

Since the two countries met in Brisbane, Australia have lost only twice, both games to South Africa, one by a single point in Perth and the other by 14 points in Johannesburg. Like England, they have gone through a World Cup qualifying process, though against more demanding opponents in the shape of Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa.

"We're reasonably happy with the way we went, although we have room for improvement," Macqueen, the Australia coach, said, "but it will be our thirteenth Test and we're looking forward to a rest. However, we're very aware that England have been criticised recently and will be coming out strongly to show they're a good side."

Macqueen disregards utterly the Brisbane result. "We have not even considered that game. We didn't take that much satisfaction from the result. It was our first game together as a team; we had eight new players." Now he has lost eight of his front-line players but is happy to expose others to the international stage, 12 months away from the World Cup. Chris Latham will play only his second international on Saturday at full back, as will Nathan Grey, who looked so promising in the centre in Paris.



Wilson, who is expected to make his sixtieth appearance for Australia in the Cook Cup match on Saturday

"We have always had a problem with depth in Australia," Macqueen said, "but we are happy with the resolve in the team and the maturity they have shown." That Latham and Grey can find their way into the international game alongside such experienced players as Jason Little and George Gregan is a substantial bonus; that they are learning to cope with cold, wet conditions, in training as well as

playing, will serve them well during the World Cup campaign in Ireland next year. Gloucester hope to add Kingsley Jones to their back-row resources after Ebbw Vale found themselves forced to put their best players up for sale. Jones, the openside flanker capped ten times by Wales, met officials at Kingsholm last week and it is hoped that agreement can be reached by the

weekend. John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said: "Negotiations are at an early stage with the player and Ebbw Vale, but, with injuries to Simon Devereux and Pete Glanville, we are thin on the ground in the back row."

Paul Sampson, the Wasps wing capped by England against South Africa in Cape Town in July, plays for Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV in the annual match against Cambridge University at Grange Road this afternoon. David Scully, the Rotherham scrum half, will captain the side, which includes three Blues in Tom Murphy, Richard Bramley and Richard Pool-Jones, and an interloper from Oxford, Trevor Walsh.

Australia: C Latham (Queensland), J Little (Queensland), D J Herbert (Queensland), M P Grey (New South Wales), J W C Roff (Australian Capital Territory), S Larkham (ACT), G M Gregan (ACT), P E Noriega (ACT), P M Kearns (NSW), A T Blakes (NSW), T M Bowmen (NSW), J A Eales (Queensland), captain, M J Cook (Queensland), D J Wilson (Queensland), T S Kelle (Queensland), replacements: C Whitaker (NSW), M H M Edwards (NSW), M Hardy (ACT), V Oshaguan (NSW), G Pineson (ACT), C Blakes (NSW), M Foley (Queensland).

## Paterson put on defensive

THE general state of rugby in Scotland, and the efficiency of its administration in particular, will come under scrutiny tonight at a specially convened meeting of the general committee of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) at Murrayfield (Alasdair Reid writes). Although no details of the agenda have been released, SRU sources revealed that discussions will focus on the role of Duncan Paterson, the chairman of the union's powerful executive board.

Paterson has held office since early last year, during which time the stock of Scotland in world rugby has tumbled, the 35-10 defeat by South Africa on Saturday being only the latest in a long run of losses. Although his critics

attach no direct blame to the former international scrum half for those setbacks, they have been scathing over the union's worsening financial state and the turmoil that has beset the game.

Last week, it was learned that the SRU's indebtedness had grown to almost £17 million. Much of that can be attributed to the policy of employing most of the country's leading players on full-time SRU contracts, a strategy with which Paterson is closely associated. Cost and underachievement by the four district sides to which the players were attached led to the union creating two super-districts earlier this year, but neither won a place in the knockout stages of the European Cup this season.

## Lomu prepares special day for youngsters

JONAH LOMU will be in Kent on Sunday morning taking a coaching session for the mini and junior sections at Thanet Wanderers RFC in Broadstairs. The club, which won the inaugural NPI Cup two seasons ago, discovered that Lomu would be in England for a fortnight and Lindsey Hawkins, daughter of Peter, the club secretary, tracked him down.

The All Black apparently jumped at the chance to spend some time with the youngsters and local sponsors were quick to offer financial assistance to help to raise money for the National Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Lomu flies in on Saturday from the Seychelles, where he is a judge at the Miss World contest tomorrow. Peter Hawkins said: "This will be the biggest day in the club's history. It is marvellous that he is taking the time and trouble to come."

### Premature exit

At 2.45 pm on Saturday, two intrepid Italy supporters turned up at the Huddersfield Town FC ticket office asking for their money back for seats that they had bought just half an hour before. It was only when the couple entered the McAlpine Stadium and saw the teams kicking about that they realised they were a day early. Instead of watching their beloved rugby team play England, they were about to enjoy the delights of Huddersfield versus Bradford City in the Nationwide League first division. An understanding ticket officer gave them a refund.

### Well-fed Lions

If the unbeaten 1974 Lions thought that their tour was hard going, the 25th anniversary reunion next year promises to be even more demanding. It is being held in aid of The Wooden Spoon Society and is a five-day endurance test involving gala dinners in Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff and London and several golf tournaments all during the week beginning May 17. If you want to be involved and help to raise money for charity in the process, call The Wooden Spoon Society on 01227 772295.



e-mail: sport@the-times.co.uk

Things don't get easier for Will Carling. A lockstrap that once belonged to the fallen idol went under the hammer after the Welsh Varsity match between Cardiff and Swansea last week, but fetched only 16p. Students recently launched a spoof appeal to help Will, but so far only 26p has been forthcoming. On a serious note, the Cardiff-Swansea game raised more than £10,000 for Oxfam.

### Banbury fare

The under-21 international between England and South Africa at Banbury RFC's new Bodicot Park ground next Tuesday rekindles memories of the last big game hosted by Banbury, 30 years ago to the day. It was an England trial, Whites v Colours, which featured Don Rutherford, now director of rugby at Twickenham. A newspaper report read: "D. Rutherford of Percy Park kicked and tackled well and was always looking for a way to start a movement." He went on to win 14 caps.

### Hastings battle

Gavin Hastings has finally laid to rest the ghost of New Zealand. The former Scotland and Lions captain, who came so close to winning a series against the All Blacks in 1993, led a Classic Lions team to victory over the old enemy in the final of the World Classics tournament in Bermuda six days ago. Hastings' team included J. P. R. Williams, Collin Deans, Steve Boyle and John O'Driscoll. "It was honestly one of the hardest but most satisfying games of my career," Hastings said.

MARK SOUSTER

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CHANGING TIMES

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Reprieve by rain cannot mask longstanding deficiencies of Stewart's team

# Familiar failings haunt England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (final day of five):  
Australia drew with England

IT WAS clear by lunchtime yesterday that England would require either tenacious batting or torrential rain if the first Test match was to be saved. In the absence of the former, the spectacular storm that turned the Gabba into a lake was a godsend to a team that had drifted dangerously back into bad habits.

After so much work, so many advances, England had filled with self-destruction like a reformed alcoholic lurking in a pub doorway. They scarcely deserved salvation, so great was Australia's command of the closing stages, but, in such circumstances, the reprieve will seem almost like a victory.

When play was suspended in fast-fading light, 20 minutes before tea, England were 179 for six. Fanciful notions of achieving the target of 348 had long since been banished and only the tailenders, whose ineptitude on Monday had cre-

careless and cavalier aspects of their game, they can forget the Ashes now.

Three missed chances in the field on the first evening and an abject collapse on the fourth morning was all that it took to open a door to defeat that should have remained firmly bolted. For much of this game, England played solid, competitive cricket, but their inability to sustain it over five days remains infuriating.

Their decline yesterday revived another old sore, for English batsmen are still exposed far too often by wrist-spin. Stuart MacGill has none of the control of Shane Warne, but, on a wearing pitch, he was good enough to embarrass three of the top order and he might easily have finished with six or seven wickets if the weather had permitted.

That he did not saved the Australian selectors some awkward explanations, as they had already agreed that he would be left out of the squad for the second Test, starting in Perth on Saturday. Colin Miller, the Tasmania all-rounder, is certain to play.

MacGill's exclusion is not personally judgmental, merely a reflection of the anticipated conditions. Perth has the quickest Test pitch in the world and Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, pointed out: "Even at the height of his career, Warne couldn't do so well there."

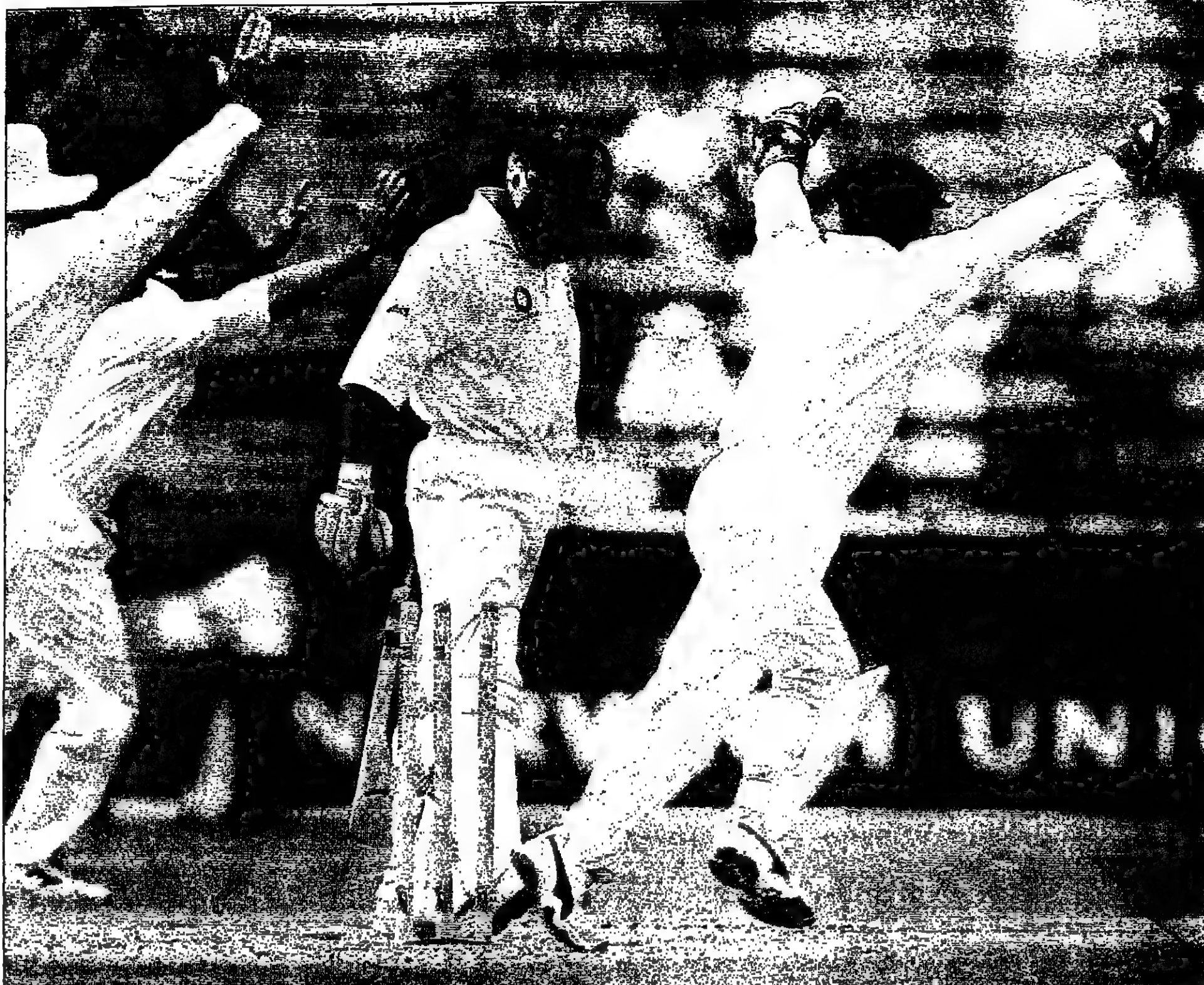
Nevertheless, Stewart's face betrayed surprise when he was told of the change and relief may have been only just beneath the surface. Of all the senior England batsmen, Stewart's technique against spin is the most wooden and vulnerable; he, for one, will relish the pace of Perth.

In the view of Stewart and the team management, England needed to bat positively when play began yesterday. This was sound thinking, as excessive restraint on such a day is invariably self-defeating, but the debonair hook that cost Michael Atherton his prized wicket was not quite what they had in mind.

It is not the first time that Atherton has been out hooking against Glenn McGrath and the tactic was transparent — a sucker punch. Atherton's blood was up, after scoring nine runs from pulls in McGrath's first over, but he repeated the shot to a ball too wide of off stump and scooped it to Fleming at fine leg.

With their best blocker gone, England now needed to reach lunch without further casualties and they came within four overs of achieving it. Butcher and Hussain added 50, largely with poise, but MacGill had been flashing warning signals. Turning the ball lavishly, after an expensive opening over, he had Hussain missed at slip by a partially unswitched Taylor, then spun a leg-break sharply into Butcher and won a leg-before verdict from Darrell Hair.

Hussain had been treating the part-time off-breaks of Mark Warne with disdain, twice depositing him into the



Australia celebrate and begin to scent victory as Hussain cuts a dejected figure after chopping a ball from MacGill on to his stumps at the Gabba, but rain thwarted the home team

## Call to arms for Cork

A SECTION of Derbyshire supporters is meeting next week amid continuing uncertainty over the future of Dominic Cork as club captain (Richard Hobson writes).

Before leaving for Australia with England, Cork said that he was prepared to resign, after just one season in charge, over perceived interference from Harold Rhodes, a committee member, and Andy Hayhurst, the director of coaching and development.

David Griffin, the organiser of the meeting, which a number of capped players are expected to attend, believes that a failure to appease Cork will provoke further division.

ated the needless drama, stood between Australia and a sixth consecutive Brisbane victory. It was a forlorn hope.

The storm that struck half an hour later was so intense that abandonment was inevitable. Alec Stewart, the England captain, said: "It's the first time in the 62 Tests I've played that rain might have saved England." He could safely have left out the "might".

It can be argued that fifth-day rain has cost England two possible wins this calendar year, in Barbados and at Edgbaston, so the injustice needs no apology. However, England must learn fast from the lessons of the Gabba, for, if they repeat the periodical self-peddling in evidence here, sooner or later they will be punished by the relentless Australians.

Stewart reckoned that his side played "one-and-a-half days of good cricket" and he knew it was not enough. "There is still room for improvement," he admitted. Unless it comes quickly, unless England eliminate the casual,

stand for straight sixes, but Stewart completed a poor personal match with another tame dismissal, prodding stiffly forward and giving a catch to silly point.

An hour into the afternoon session, with Thorpe and Hussain also out, England were at the mercy of the weather. Thorpe turned an innocuous ball from Waugh into the mid-riff of short leg and Hussain, failing to pick MacGill's googly, gloved the ball into his stumps as he aimed to cut.

Taylor strutted, clapped and waved busily. He looked like a captain who felt the master of his destiny, but the storm clouds were gathering, lightning forks were dancing on the horizon and the ground-staff had donned their tell-tale oilskins. "I always thought we were in trouble," Taylor said.

The rain approached with agonising stealth. When Ramprakash was lured down the pitch by MacGill and stumped by an undignified distance,

the light had deteriorated and Taylor had to withdraw McGrath from the attack — very reluctantly, with Dominic Cork at the crease.

Twice, the umpires conferred at length before deciding play should proceed. Up on the suburban front lawn that passes for a "hill" on this ground nowadays, England's more vocal supporters cheered every clap of thunder, while, in the middle, Cork and Croft performed every facial contortion to make their views of the light known.

Once the decision to go off had been made, there was never any prospect of returning. The rain, when it came, was dramatic and the ground was under water within minutes. Taylor, as ever, remained gracious, though perhaps just a little too fair. "England are resilient now," he said. "They are certainly not throwing games away." A harsher judgment would conclude that they tried pretty hard.

## COMPLETE SCOREBOARD FROM FIRST TEST IN BRISBANE

Australia won 100.

Australia: First Innings

\*M A Taylor c Hussain b Cork... 46

(190min, 135 balls, 6 fours)

M J Slater c Butcher b Mully... 16

(60min, 40 balls, 2 fours)

J L Langer b Waugh... 8

(55min, 43 balls)

M E Waugh c Stewart b Mully... 31

(55min, 50 balls, 3 fours)

S R Waugh c Stewart b Mully... 112

(230min, 232 balls, 13 fours)

R T Ponting c Butcher b Cork... 21

(85min, 61 balls, 1 four)

\*I A Healy c Mully b Fraser... 134

(302min, 229 balls, 14 fours)

M S Kasprowicz c Stewart b Mully... 0

(2min, 3 balls)

D W Fleming not out... 71

(134min, 107 balls, 11 fours)

S C S MacGill... 20

(50min, 30 balls, 4 fours)

I D McGrath c Atherton b Croft... 5

(36min, 24 balls)

Extras (14, w 1, nb 8)... 21

Total (188 overs, 687min)... 465

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30 (Taylor 10),

8-59 (Taylor 30), 9-105 (Taylor 46),

10-105 (Healy 117), 7-365 (Healy 117),

11-173, 9-420 (Fleming 32), 9-446 (Fleming 37).

BOWLING: Gough 34-4-135-1; Cork 11-5-50-2; Mully 40-10-105-5; Croft

23-4-55-1; Fraser 28-7-76-1; Ramprakash 2-1-2-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

M A Butcher... 116

(141min, 90 balls, 10 fours)

c and b M E Waugh... 0

(10min, 14 balls)

N Hussain c Healy b Kasprowicz... 66

(141min, 90 balls, 10 fours)

\*A J Stewart... 8

c Kasprowicz b MacGill... 8

(17min, 6 balls, 1 four)

G P Thorpe c Langer b McGrath... 77

(231min, 186 balls, 7 fours)

M R Ramprakash not out... 69

(234min, 186 balls, 8 fours)

D G Cork c MacGill b McGrath... 0

(15min, 11 balls)

R D B Croft b Kasprowicz... 23

(51min, 42 balls, 3 fours)

D Gough (lbw b McGrath)... 0

(25min, 23 balls)

A D Mully... 0

c Kasprowicz b McGrath... 0

(2min, 1 ball)

A R C Fraser... 1

c M E Waugh b McGrath... 1

(8min, 7 balls)

Extras (1, lb 9, nb 12)... 22

Total (128.2 overs, 514min)... 376

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Butcher 7),

2-145 (Butcher 77), 3-169 (Butcher 82),

4-290 (Thorpe 42), 5-315 (Ramprakash 36),

6-319 (Ramprakash 40), 7-365

(Ramprakash 37), 8-373 (Ramprakash 69),

9-373 (Ramprakash 69).

BOWLING: McGrath 34-2-11-85-6;

Fleming 27-5-53-0; Kasprowicz 27-7-52-2;

MacGill 24-4-70-1; S R Waugh 3-0-17-0;

Ponting 5-0-10-0; M E Waugh 8-1-18-1.

Australia: Second Innings

M J Slater c and b Fraser... 113

(190min, 130 balls, 1 six, 13 fours)

\*M A Taylor b Cork... 0

(120min, 6 balls)

J L Langer c Mully b Croft... 74

(202min, 149 balls, 8 fours)

M E Waugh not out... 27

(77min, 54 balls, 1 four)

S R Waugh not out... 16

(52min, 31 balls, 1 four)

Extras (1, lb 1, nb 5)... 7

Total (5 wickets, 62 overs, 255min) 179

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48 (Butcher 15),

2-96 (Hussain 24), 3-102 (Hussain 26),

4-138 (Hussain 44), 5-148 (Ramprakash 11),

6-161 (Cork 10).

BOWLING: McGrath 19-6-30-1 (4 fours);

12-5-23-1, 3-1-5-0, 1-0-0-0;

Kasprowicz 8-5-25-0 (w 1, 2 fours);

3-0-15-0, 5-3-0-0; Fleming 7-3-13-0 (no 2 1 four; one spin);

MacGill 22-4-61-3 (4 fours, one spin);

M E Waugh 14-3-25-2 (no 2 7 2 shots, 2 fours, 4-2-2-1, 5-0-1-1, 5-0-1-0);

Ponting 1-1-0-0.

SCORING NOTES: Fifth Day: Lumsden 108-3 (89 overs, 155min; Hussain 26),

Thorpe 0. Bad light stopped play at 2.20pm. Test 178-6 (59 overs, 255min; Cork 21, Croft 4). Electric storm arrived at 3.13pm - ground flooded by 3.20pm.

Umpires: K T Francis (St Lucia) and D B Hair. Third umpire: P D Parker. Match referee: I F Head.

© Compiled by Bill Frindall

## Overdue gift of the Gabba

John Woodcock suggests that England were owed a favour by the elements

In a sense, justice was done at the Gabba yesterday, not because England's cricket had merited their saving the first Test match, but because only a storm of terrible intensity enabled them to do so. On both their first two tours here after the Second World War, when the pitches were still uncovered, something similar condemned them to batting on a sticky dog, which led, each time, to unavoidable defeat. Now it meant instant deliverance — and thank goodness it did.

Had England been beaten here, as they almost certainly would have been but for the rain, it would have taken the optimism of all optimists to see them recovering the Ashes. The same was said after the England side captained by Len Hutton had lost the first Test match on the same ground in 1954-55, and they went on to achieve great things.

Yet Stewart's bowling attack does not compare with the one that Hutton had at his disposal. Mully and Gough are not Statham and Tyson; Cork is no Bailey; and Warde and Appleyard were in a different class to Croft and Such. In a wonderful and extraordinary turnaround, England won the next three Test matches 44 years ago, as likely an event now as Sydney's Opera House toppling into the harbour.

So England go to Perth chastened, but still level. As

was generally expected, most of the best cricket came from Australia. They were the more confident and conspicuously the more disciplined side, England's lack of discipline landed them in more trouble than was necessary.

The way that England threw their wickets away on Monday morning was contrary to all the good resolutions of the past few weeks. For some inexcusable reason, they became complacent, or so it seemed. After doing well on Sunday, it was as though they had deluded themselves into thinking that Australia, without Warne, were no more than the shadow of a formidable side. If so, they made a grave error.

McGrath alone gives the Australia attack an edge that England's lacks. His strike rate of a wicket every 53 balls in Test cricket is better than Lindwall's and only fractionally worse than Lillee's and Thomson's — and better by far than the best of England's. McGrath may not be especially fast, but he is tall, antagonistic, accurate and he moves the ball around. He is forever niggling and nagging away, wishing only ill upon the batsman. For Cork and Mully to try and hook him as and when they did in the England first innings, was madness.

It is true, of course, that Australia miss Warne. They would probably have won yesterday had he been fit and in form. Warne relishes the Gabba. Watching him there when he was in possession of his full bag of tricks, I thought his bowling was the most difficult to play of any I had ever seen, or at any rate the bowling to be most easily and acutely embarrassed by.

Mercifully, MacGill, if not quite a journeyman by comparison, is no Warne. Years ago, every State side in Australia used to have a MacGill, sometimes two. He spun his leg breaks yesterday and got some to bounce, but he showed no more than a modest googly and lacked the fine control that would have put England under pressure.

He bothered them because of the wearing pitch and the gathering tension, but he sent down enough loose balls to offer regular respite. He would have won the game eventually, I expect, but had Warne been there, the storm could well have been incidental.

England are sure to be tempted to play a seventh batsman in Perth. Cork is too erratic to bat at No 7 and, although Croft is a bony fighter, the tail at Brisbane

was awfully long. The fact that Crawley made good runs in Perth earlier this month adds to the attraction of changing the balance of the side and the only wickets Croft looks like taking are when batsmen are chancing their arm. I would plump for quicker bowlers and the off breaks of Ramprakash, which should not be disregarded, in Perth, where speed is invariably the force.

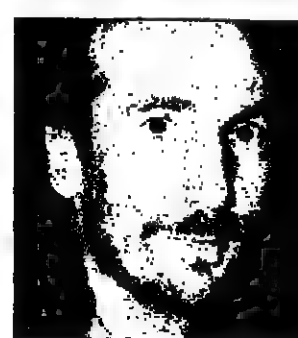
There is no reason why Ramprakash, given the right encouragement, should not one day become an influential bowler, much in the way that Carl Hooper has become for West Indies.

There were one or two good things about the England performance in Brisbane, first among them being the batting of Butcher. What a priceless asset an imperturbable temperament is. Hussain made a useful start and Mully's five first-innings wickets were a bonus.

The pitch was an eminently fair one on which to start a series; there were very few dull moments, though many noisy ones. Even worse than the mindless chanting of the Barry Army was the almost ceaseless cacophony from the building site along something like 80 yards of the boundary. It was exactly as though Australia had been asked to play a Test match at Lord's when the grandstand was under construction — and I know what they would have said to that.

## Staring victory in the face

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

Fast bowlers need a minimum of three weapons: a good straight ball, a good bouncer and a good stare. Each one of these is only truly effective if used in careful combination with the other two. Glenn McGrath is the least theatrical of fast bowlers, with nothing of the swaggering bravado of Lillian Thomson — but he is still a master of the stare.

There are sports and there are contact sports, but as every fast bowler knows and every batsman ever targeted by a fast bowler knows, there are also eye-contact sports. The eye-contact sports are the scary ones.

People think it is the sign of a good, honest person if he looks you in the eye. This is a total misreading, based on macho swagger. Eye-contact is a challenge more, an assertion of dominance. Time and again, I have driven baboons from the environs of my hut in Zambia by giving them that old Lillian Thomson glare.

Paddington Bear has given literary form to the fast bowler's glare. He was taught by his Aunt Lucy in darkest Peru to perform the Extremely Hard Stare. The most memorable passage of play in any sport last summer was the duel between Allan Donald and Michael Atherton. It matched Paddington stare against Paddington stare.

Donald stared in challenge. Atherton stared back in mild, utterly insolent negation. Tele-

forces that. Atherton vengefully tried to hook him in the second innings, succeeded a couple of times, but, in the end, he was goaded into over-reaching himself.

Cricket, being a theatrical game, is a serious eye-contact sport. Rugby union, being a game of mayhem, is not, but it has its own moment of truth in the first set scrum of a big match, when the three chief head-butters in each side link arms and give Aunt Lucy's best. Football is a game full of small confrontations and little vendettas — I believe Stanley Collymore knows something about that — but, for the most part, eye-contact is avoided, save when the ball is dead.

The exception is the penalty, a small drama that replicates the bowler-and-batsman situation. We see the crucial effect of eye-contact best in penalty shoot-outs. Some penalty-takers are clearly beaten before they have begun to run-up. Bruce Grobbelaar's notorious knee-tremble, his pantomime of terror as he prepared for the penalty shoot-out in the 1984 European Cup final, is a classic example.

Tennis has an element of eye-contact in the pre-serving ritual. There is scope for more of the same when the players change ends: mostly, the opportunity is avoided. There were all kinds of kerfuffle when Venus Williams added a shove to her killer glance routine. The 100 metres sprint, especially the big finals, is all about staring, but the competi-

tors do not stare at each other. Linford Christie was the absolute master of the pre-race stare. He made everyone look at him while acting as if nobody else existed. This is perhaps the most wounding use of glance, denying your opponent not his dreams of dominance, but his entire existence.

The combat sports are all about eye-contact, naturally. Some of the best glaring in the world happens in sumo wrestling. Bouts are decided not by grappling, but by crouching, salt-scattering and Paddington-Bearing — but if you want to see something that would make Aunt Lucy quail, watch women's judo from midside.

The stare that wins is not the one that seeks dominance. It is not the look that boasts the stare that is full of challenge, but of certainty, that destroys. Let's take in *Moonraker*. "Morphy," the great chess player, would never raise his eyes from the game until he knew his opponent could not escape defeat. Then he would lift his great head and gaze curiously at the man across the board. His opponent would slowly, humbly raise his eyes to meet Morphy's. At that moment he would know it was no good continuing.

The eyes of Morphy said so. There was nothing left but surrender. "Now, like Morphy, Bond lifted his head..."







# SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

SPORT  
**Vision**

WEEKEND

**metro**

the times  
magazine

**meg@**

THE  TIMES

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MOTOR RALLYING: BRITON TRIUMPHS AS FAILURE OF SAINZ LETS IN MAKINEN FOR WORLD TITLE

## Burns checks in the safe way

By KEVIN EASON

RICHARD BURNS looked across the vast service area at a face that looked as though it had been drained of every drop of blood. Carlos Sainz had suffered the worst fate that could befall any sportsman yesterday — failing in sight of the finishing post to clinch a world championship that had been virtually his for the past three days.

Even the victorious Burns was unable to counter the enormous sense of anticlimax that overwhelmed this astonishing Network Q Rally of Great Britain. It was the world title showdown that never was, with both Sainz and Tommi Makinen dumped from the rally in extraordinary circumstances.

Neither was Burns able to prove himself in the much-vaunted head-to-head contest with Colin McRae, his British rival, whose Subaru expired on Monday. The substitute challenge from Alister McRae, Colin's younger brother, who started yesterday in second place, lasted only a few minutes before the Scot crashed on the first stage.

So Burns was left to his lonely drive through the mists and rain of the Welsh forests, driving against the clock and his own demons. As cars dropped like flies around him, the memory lingered of this rally last year, when Burns led most of the way only to be robbed of victory by a puncture. This time, though, the bad luck was being distributed throughout the rest of the field.

Sainz was trying to cruise carefully to the security of a fourth place that would wrestle the championship from Makinen, allowing the Ford Escorts of Jutta Kankkunen and Bruno Thiry to overtake him. With a substantial cushion and little competition from behind, Burns, 27, was free to show that he is the emerging talent of British rallying and will be a world championship contender himself when he joins Subaru next year as their No 1 driver.

Dave Richards, head of Prodrive Subaru, who recruited Burns to replace the departing McRae, said: "This is an important day for British rallying. Richard has matured enormously and I would put money on him for a world championship."

Starting from sixth on Monday morning, Burns won 15 of the 18 stages over two days and set a blistering pace that no other driver could match. Only at the end was there any doubt, when he felt a vibration coming from the front wheels of his Mitsubishi Lancer.

"I was driving so carefully, I barely dared breathe through the last stage," he said. "We had a big fright at the end and suddenly things started to run through my mind. I was utterly relieved to get through to the end, especially when you consider



Burns stays on the straight and narrow as he negotiates the final stages of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain yesterday

what was happening around me."

In fact, there was little that has not happened during this remarkable rally. Certainly, Burns's victory celebrations were overshadowed as it emerged that the convoy of leading cars coming through the last stage of the rally, past the wide lawns of Margam

Park, was significantly missing the Toyota Corolla of Sainz and Luis Moya, his co-driver.

Hundreds of spectators had cheered through Burns and Robert Reid, his co-driver, and then the twin Escorts of Kankkunen and Thiry, achieving a remarkable finale for the Ford hatchbacks in their last rally after 30 years on the

world stage. But then, no Sainz. As the clock ticked by, the roar of an engine could be heard over the tall trees and the crowd strained to see Sainz coming home to win his third world crown. However, the car was the Subaru of Gregoire De Mevius and it was some minutes before a plume of smoke and flame announced the arrival of Sainz's ailing Toyota. As the red and white car rolled to a halt, fire billowing from under the bonnet, a hush descended on the crowd of onlookers. Just 300 metres from the line, Sainz handed the championship that had been temporarily in his gift back to Makinen, along with the manufacturers' world championship for Mitsubishi.

Seven miles away, at the final service area before the drive back to rally headquarters in Cheltenham, there was cheering and hugging on one side of the shed housing the mechanics and Mitsubishi team members, who had waited for Burns to return as the Rally of Great Britain winner.

The other side of the shed had all the atmosphere of the morgue. Tears welled up in the eyes of mechanics as Sainz and Moya trudged in. Burns broke off from the jubilation to share a moment with the Spaniard. "I am feeling complete happiness," he said, "but I cannot imagine how Carlos is feeling. Our hearts go out to him."



Makinen talks to the press after his unexpected victory

## FINAL STANDINGS

LEADING FINAL POSITIONS: 1. R Burns (GB, Mitsubishi Lancer) 30.40m 20 Sec; 2. J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford Escort) at 32m 45.5 sec; 3. B Thiry (Bel, Ford Escort) at 32m 57.8; 4. G de Mevius (Bel, Subaru Impreza) at 35m 5.5; 5. S Lindholm (Fin, SEAT Cordoba) at 36m 33.5; 6. A Schwarz (Ger, Ford Escort) at 37m 16.7; 7. K Holowacz (Pol, Subaru Impreza) at 38m 7.9; 8. M Martin (Est, Toyota Celica) at 39m 11.0; 9. M Stohr (Ger, Mitsubishi Lancer) at 39m 17.2.

FINAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS: Drivers: 1. T Makinen (Fin) 56 pts; 2. C Sainz (Sp) 55; 3. C McRae (GB) 45; 4. J Kankkunen (Fin) 38; 5. D Auld (Fr) 34; 6. R Burns (GB) 33; 7. P Lest (Fr) 17; 8. F Lox (GB) 15; 9. B Thiry (Bel) 10; 10. A Vatanen (Fin) 9. Constructors: 1. Mitsubishi 91 pts; 2. Toyota 85; 3. Subaru 65; 4. Ford 53.

## BOXING

## Couch set to land blow for women

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JANE COUCH, the first British professional woman boxer, makes her debut at Caesar's nightclub, Streatham, tonight. Couch, who calls herself "The Fleetwood Assassin", faces Simone Lukic, a Yugoslav boxing out of Germany. Lukic does not have a *nom de guerre*, but at 18, is 12 years younger than Couch. Their records are identical: three wins, three defeats and two draws, so a competitive contest is expected.

Couch discovered boxing four years ago. After being dismissed as a waitress at the Tower Hotel, London, for arguing with a customer, she was working as a packer of Blackpool rock when she saw Christy Martin, a World Boxing Council (WBC) women's champion from the United States, boxing on television.

Inspired, she turned to Tex Woodward, the trainer, who

has a gym near Bristol. Two years later, she became the world welterweight champion by defeating Sandra Geiger in Copenhagen. She defended the title twice in the United States, once on the bill topped by Roy Jones, the WBC light-heavyweight champion, at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut, but 12 months ago she was outpointed by Dora Webber in a non-title bout.

Lukic is something of an unknown quantity, but Greg Steene, her agent, says that she should not be taken lightly. "Even if she's only had eight fights, there is plenty of good sparring available in Germany, where women's boxing is very big," he said.

Steene, who is a boxing promoter and manager, added: "I have never seen women's boxing, but tonight we'll find out whether we'll be sick to the stomach or love it."

Answers from page 47

**ALLUROPHOBIA**  
(c) Morbid fear of cats. The Greek compound word. "Cats only give affection where it is deserved, except when they annoy an alluorophobe with their attention."

**ECTENE**  
(b) A litany recited by a deacon with a choir. The ecclesiastical Greek means "extended." "Ectene: in the Eastern Church, a prayer constructed like a litany for use in the Liturgy. It consists of short petitions said by the deacon to which choir or congregation respond with Kyrie Eleison."

**GALAH**  
(c) A fool or simpleton, in Australian slang. "He has visited the mineral belt and met the larrkins, galahs and dills who gravitate to such a scene."

**GALAX**  
(a) An evergreen plant of the genus *so called* of the family *Dispersiaceae*, native to the south-eastern United States, and having white flowers and shiny leaves. From the Greek.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1. Be3! inevitably wins the black queen as 1...d6 2.Bb6+Kd7 3.e6 is checkmate.

## ICE SKATING

## Dancers calling the tune

FROM ANGELA COURT IN ZAGREB

THE ice dance event at the World Junior figure skating championships began yesterday with the compulsory dances. It is the first International Skating Union championship to use new rules that could affect this discipline.

In past seasons, compulsory dances have frequently predetermined the final result. Most couples often remained in their initial positions throughout the rest of the event, causing many to say that there was little point in continuing once this section had been completed.

Now, every compulsory dance has a judges' deduction sheet laying down specific penalties for errors. Additionally, those judging have the option of using a new instant video replay system if they wish to re-evaluate sections of a dance.

Previously, mistakes, stumbles and, at times, even falls appeared to make no difference to the marks awarded, but these can no longer be overlooked. The judging of ice dance is fast changing and looks to be the way forward.

The Viennese waltz and tango were skated yesterday. Federica Faiella and Luciano Milo, of Italy, are tied in first place with Natalia Romaniuta and Daniil Barantsev, of Russia, each couple having won a dance. Jamie Silverstein and Justin Pckarek, of the United States, are third.

Sharon Hill and Andrew Hallam, of Great Britain, the two-times British junior champions, are equal-seventeenth.

## TELEVISION CHOICE

## The ladies in leathers

Behind Closed Doors

BBC2, 7.30pm

Meet Women in the Wind, the only all-female motorbike club in Britain. But be careful what you say, for riding bikes is part of a macho culture, which includes covering their arms in tattoos and making it clear that they will stand no nonsense. As one member, Linda, puts it: "We are not the hard women of biking. We are the hardened women of biking. We've had broken hearts and been messed around. Now it's time to stand on our own. Riding is a way from early twenties to 48, they take to their bikes as a symbol of release from the everyday chores of work and looking after children. We follow them to a Hell's Angels rally ("in my book a party that lasts from Thursday to Sunday is a damn good party") and see one of them married to a fellow biker in a ceremony the like of which the clergyman has obviously never witnessed before.

The Real Holiday Show

Channel 4, 8.30pm

The small screen is suddenly full of people taking off their clothes. Monday's documentary on naturism is followed by the start of *Naked* (see below) and *The Real Holiday Show* is not to be left out. Meet John and Linda Walton, naturists for all 26 years of their married life, as they take a holiday in Spain. They have to cover up in the evenings to keep the mosquitoes off but otherwise it is birthday suits all the way. Those hoping for a voyeuristic feast will be disappointed. As Linda says: "Once you've seen one floppy bit you've seen them all." There is more naked besh as Veronica and Midge, widows in their seventies, visit a male strip show in Benidorm.

Naked

BBC2, 9.50pm

The very title of Lucy Blakstad's series on the human body may pull in the viewers, though not all the bodies are shown without clothes and some of those which would have been better covered up. Those offended by such things are warned that Blakstad does not shrink from showing the most intimate bits. As she has demonstrated on the *Modern Times* strand, Blakstad's speciality is



A member of Women in the Wind, in Behind Closed Doors (BBC2, 7.30pm)

gentle observation of the quirkiest side of human behaviour and there is something of that here. But this first programme lacks coherence and Blakstad seems uncertain what she is aiming for. So much so that one couple accuses her of asking silly questions. Middle-aged bodies are the topic and the unsurprising conclusion that while some 50-year-olds do everything they can in the way of facelifts and so on to resist the ageing process, others try to make the best of it.

Omnibus: The Whirl of Vanity Fair

BBC1, 10.45pm

The BBC serialisation of *Vanity Fair* has inspired this companion documentary which considers the book as social satire, offers a bluffer's guide to the life of William Makepeace Thackeray and speculates on what the heroine, Becky Sharp, would be doing if she were around today. The novelist Kathy Lene sees Becky as a precursor of Madonna, defying convention and challenging sexual mores, while the publicist Max Clifford thinks he could launch her as a television presenter. The section on Thackeray is made of more intelligent stuff and useful critiques of the novel come from the adapter Andrew Davies and John Mortimer. They argue that Thackeray was concerned with the mobility of social class, something still with us 150 years after *Vanity Fair* was written. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Aids and Me

Radio 4, 11.00am

The diary of the Radio 4 reporter Nigel Wrench for May 6, 1993, contained three appointments: two with MPs and one at the Royal Free Hospital for an HIV test. The test came first. Then Wrench did the first of the interviews and returned to the hospital for the test result. "As I was sitting down, the nurse looked at me and said, 'well, I think you know this by now, the test is positive'. Well, I didn't know. I phoned the office and said I had been held up and could someone else do the second interview (with Edward Heath). That was the beginning of my journey with HIV." This programme is an unscripted account of that journey, made all the more moving by Wrench's measured, balanced approach.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Gilles Peterson 2.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barnham 8.00 Mike Harding 9.00 The Andy Pates Show. New series looking at the world of soul music. (1/13) 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums. Phil Collins's album *Faces Value* 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 Kaithe Lesterich 3.00am Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruzoco and Co 4.00pm Drive 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 John Inverdale's Scottish Night. Cornwell v Scotland v Manchester United and Arsenal v Lens in the Champions' League 10.00 Lorraine 11.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Janet 7.30 Janet Lay Graz 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Murrell 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Anna Reaburn 4.00 Peter Dinkley's Drivetime 6.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James White 12.00 Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Massenet (Meditation, Thais); Holst (Jupiter, The Planets); Copland (Fantasy for the Common Man) 9.00 Masterworks with Penny Gore. Includes Johann Strauss, son (Overture: Die Fledermaus); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in A, Frog); Bach (Preludes and Fugues Nos 9-14, 46 Book 1); Elgar, orch Jacob (Organ Sonata in G); Mozart (Three German Dances, K606); Johann Strauss, son (Waltz: An Artist's Life). 10.30 Artist of the Week: Barbara Hendricks 11.00 Sound Stories: Sebastian with Donald Macleod 12.00 Composer of the Week: Josquin 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: New Playlist: Copland (Fantasy for the Common Man) piano, Dvorak (Four Romantic Pieces, Op 75); Liszt (Waltz (Subito)), Schumann (Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op 12) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mervyn Brabbin and Mark Wigglesworth. Anne Quirell, piano. Grieg (Sonata in E flat, Op 31 No 3), Schumann (Kinderszenen) 2.00 Kodaly (Duo) 2.25 Brahms (Symphony No 3) 3.00 Schools 5.00 Doherty (Capriccio in A minor, Op 23 No 3); Liszt (Pymn de l'enfant a son reve)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farmers' Today Presented by Anna Hill 6.00 Today with John Humphrys and James Naughtie 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update from Westminster 9.00 Midweek with the Times columnist Libby Purves 9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Alan Wilson 9.45 (FM) Series: The Interesting Narrative (3/5) 10.00 Women's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests 11.00 Alka and Mike See Choice 11.30 Funny Bones Jimmy Tarbuck and Rhona Cameron discuss comedy through the generations (4/8) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer questions, presented by Tristram Newson and Mark Whitaker 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Wildbrain The second heat of the wildlife quiz 2.00 The Archers (I) 2.15 The Golden Triangle: The Awakening Conscience by Robin Brooks. A man vows to turn a barnard into a stunning cultured beauty 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (I) 3.30 Speakers' Corner The actress Phoebe Wooley describes her experiences of public speaking as she struggles to make ends meet by taking a second job as a tour guide (3/4) (I) 3.45 The Trouble with Clara Penny Downie reads Alison White's story (I) 4.00 Casa Notes Graham Eason reports on men's health issues (I) 4.30 Thinking Allowed — The Larger Map Laurie Taylor meets three people from Slough 5.00 PM with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Booked New series. With Dile Kinsler, Roger McGough, David Stafford and Arthur Smith. Hosted by Ian McMillan. See Choice 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row John Wilson examines the work of photographer Henri Cartier Bresson, whose influential career began in 1930 7.45 Still Waiting by Sergio Casati (I) 8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buckle ponders ethical issues behind the week's news with Janet Daley, David Starkey, David Cook and Ian Hargreaves 8.45 Better Than Sex Fred D'Aguirre describes the enjoyment he derives from getting a good haircut in South London (I) 9.00 Coasting The Earth investigation into what can be done to belatedly make safe the millions of canisters of mustard gas and phosgene buried or dumped at sea 9.30 Midweek (I) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World Robert Glenister reads part three of Pat Barker's tale examining the power of the past over the present comedy sketches and poems, by Claire Calman, Julia Davis, Maria McElane, Meera Syal and Arabella Water 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Roundup of developments in both houses 11.30 (FM) Radio Shuttleworth Singer-songwriter John Shuttleworth, also Graham Fellows, talks to Vanessa Feltz, who offers to mediate in a dispute between him and wife Mary (I) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: A Man in Full William Hoodson reads part eight of Tom Wolfe's new novel exploring the lives of men in the 1960s 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

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# TENNIS 47

Henman makes perfect start in ATP Tour World Championship

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

# MOTOR RALLYING 50

Burns avoids pitfalls to triumph in Welsh forests



# Newcastle insist £8 million signing will partner Shearer and not replace him

# Gullit gives Ferguson his head

By GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

SOMETIMES it takes a simple picture to underline the weight of countless words, so there can be little coincidence that immediately after Newcastle United's forlorn performance away to Everton on Monday, Freddy Shepherd, the embattled Newcastle chairman, was spotted in the bowels of Goodison Park, gratefully pumping Duncan Ferguson's hand. Rund Gullit's repeated warnings had finally been heeded.

Having spent much of the weekend describing his inheritance as a "relegation team", Gullit's Newcastle side promptly provided a compelling argument in their manager's favour during an ominous and demoralising 1-0 defeat. Ferguson, who will complete the formalities of his £8 million transfer at St James' Park this morning, will be charged with reversing a proud club's slide — a task familiar from his four years with Everton.

Much to the chagrin of his legion of supporters in the blue half of Merseyside — and to Walter Smith, the Everton manager, who considered resigning over the sale — Ferguson departed for Tyneside yesterday, passing his medical late in the afternoon after agreeing a 5½-year contract late the previous night. In so doing, Ferguson, 26, becomes Gullit's first signing since taking the reins from Kenny Dalglish three months ago.

His arrival comes amid another spate of speculation surrounding the position of Alan Shearer, though Newcastle officials were quick to dismiss the obvious connection. "The object of the exercise is to have two world-class strikers playing for Newcastle. The board have signed Duncan Ferguson to partner him with Alan," Freddie Fletcher, the chief executive, said.

Gullit's contention yesterday that Shearer is "not for sale" — although with the intriguing proviso "now it's all up to him" — prompted a telling response from the England captain last night. "As far as I am concerned, I am staying at Newcastle United," he said, "but at the moment I really don't



Ferguson leaves St James' Park yesterday after emerging from talks over his unexpected £8 million move from Everton to Newcastle United. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

know what the board and the manager are thinking." Confusing agendas are clearly being set. Gullit's cause in keeping Shearer can hardly fail to be assisted by the arrival of Ferguson, who has scored a goal every three games during his five seasons in the FA Carling Premiership. More important, perhaps, is the role that he can play in assisting Shearer: holding up the ball, winning possession and offering aerial dominance. For Ferguson, it offers a

fresh chance and a new challenge. "He is very happy to come," Gullit said. "As soon as it became clear that Everton were prepared to let him go and we wanted him, he had no hesitation in signing. I am obviously very happy to make him my first signing for United because it gives us the power that was lacking against Everton."

The deal was prepared in advance of Newcastle's visit to Goodison and Smith knew nothing of it until he was informed by Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, at 11pm that night. Smith was furious at the prospect of one of the club's strikers leaving without his knowledge and spent Monday night considering his

future. However, he was present at a board meeting yesterday when the dispute was resolved. Smith said: "I was very disappointed about Duncan leaving, but more so about the circumstances in which the whole thing took place. I did

Ferguson goes for the kill... 49 Wenger remains hopeful... 49

not know anything about it until late on Monday night and that is not right. "I had to sit down and take stock of the situation and try not to get involved in knee-jerk reactions. Eventually, I thought about the money we

have spent here this season, the players we have got and decided that I would try and work around the problem.

"Instead of walking away, I had discussions with a few people and, as a result, I am happy to stay manager of Everton." However, none of the money from the sale of Ferguson will be available for Smith to bring in replacements. He has already spent nearly £20 million on players since he joined in the summer, but Everton have only scored eight goals in the league so far — the lowest total in the Premiership — and Smith needs a stronger squad.

Gullit, meanwhile, must now try to succeed where others have failed in controlling the suspect temperament of a player who attracts disciplinary trouble as regularly as he finds the net. Ferguson received one red and nine yellow cards to go with his 11 goals last season and was serving a one-match suspension when Everton and Newcastle met on Monday.

A similarly self-destructive trail leads steadily back to his early days in Scotland. He had already received two fines for assault — one on a policeman in Stirling in 1992 — when, after moving from Dundee United to Rangers for a then British record fee of £4 million, came arguably the pivotal moment of his chequered career.

During a 4-0 victory over Raith Rovers at Ibrox in 1994, Ferguson was involved in a head-butting incident with John McStay, an offence that eventually saw him serve a six-week prison sentence in Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, as well as receive a 12-game ban from the Scottish FA. His frustration at the latter — later overturned — saw him retire from international football last year.

Since Smith, who sold Ferguson to Everton for £4 million in 1994, succeeded Howard Kendall, a host of clubs have inquired about Ferguson's availability. Middlesbrough received short shrift after making an approach last summer while Sunderland tabled a sizeable bid as recently as last week.

Chester City and Halifax Town, both of the Nationwide League third division, have been charged with failing to control their players by the FA after a brawl during their league game on November 10. Twenty players, plus members of the Chester coaching staff, were involved.

# United's plans to expand granted

By STEPHEN WOOD

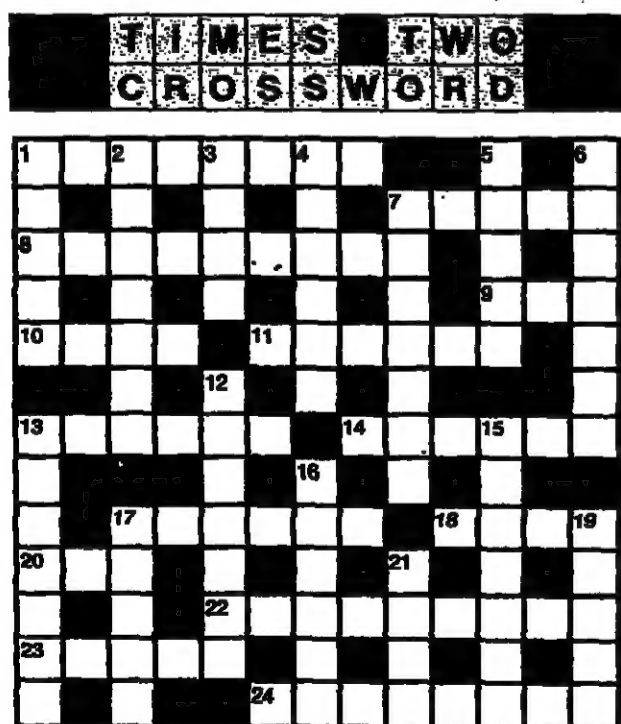
MANCHESTER United received planning permission yesterday to extend the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium, an increase sufficient to make it the biggest club ground in Great Britain. The breakthrough, however, came at a price.

United will build a new tier of seating above the existing East and West stands, a development that will increase the capacity by 12,000. The expected new capacity when work is completed, for the start of the 2000-01 season, will be 67,400, eclipsing that of Celtic Park, Glasgow, by 7,100. With more than 120,000 members and a season-ticket waiting list of 30,000, United have long realised that the present capacity is inadequate. However, objections from local residents to a new development have blocked their plans, until now.

United, therefore, made certain concessions to Trafford council. The £20 million cost includes a £1 million donation towards a package designed to improve street cleaning, car parking and congestion. The ground will be an important factor in the Football Association's bid to bring the World Cup of 2006 to England and Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said: "It confirms that we are one of the more forward-thinking clubs in the country and hopefully that will benefit England, too. But the main thing is that fewer and fewer of our supporters will be disappointed about not getting in."

Barnsley, of the Nationwide League first division, are hopeful of signing Carlton Palmer from Southampton. Palmer has a home in Sheffield and is eager to return to Yorkshire. The deal, though, appears to hinge on whether Barnsley will allow Darren Barnard, the Wales winger, to go in the opposite direction. Barnard is rated at £1.9 million, and Palmer at £1.5 million. Barnsley are also close to agreeing terms with Craig Hignett, the Aberdeen midfielder player, who is rated at £750,000.

Chester City and Halifax Town, both of the Nationwide League third division, have been charged with failing to control their players by the FA after a brawl during their league game on November 10. Twenty players, plus members of the Chester coaching staff, were involved.



No 1572

# ACROSS

- 1 Improvident (8)
- 7 Swims; apply water to (wound) (5)
- 8 Order; act of imprisonment (9)
- 9 White wine/cassis drink (3)
- 10 Pure; neat (4)
- 11 Take away; Billy Bunter's form (6)
- 13 Missing company (6)
- 14 A football club; a suit (6)
- 17 Knock about; a food coating (6)
- 18 Rough attempt; attack with knife (4)
- 20 A tree sounds like pelt (3)
- 22 Remiss (9)
- 23 T S —, poet (5)
- 24 Intensity (8)

# DOWN

- 1 Gem surface (5)
- 2 A perennial; Thomas —, poet/composer (7)
- 3 Beast's den (4)
- 4 One being painted; easy catch (6)
- 5 Amount bet (5)
- 6 Push down; make miserable (7)
- 7 A bad error; a loaf (7)
- 12 Brazenly overt (7)
- 13 Published handout (7)
- 15 Go back; a nook (7)
- 16 Scanty (6)
- 17 Plain edge band of egg silk (5)
- 19 One passed on in relay race (5)
- 21 Ruler; a chessman (4)

# SOLUTION TO NO 1571

- ACROSS: 4 Augur 7 Quixotic 8 Fish 9 Kamikaze  
10 Shardy 13 Mahout 14 Squawk 15 Vertex 18 Transfer  
19 Post 20 Demijohn 21 Payee  
DOWN: 1 Squint 2 Zither 3 Low-key 4 Activate  
5 Gadabout 6 Reject 11 Unusually 12 Downside 14 Satrap  
15 Virgil (Vergil) 16 Raptor 17 Equine

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